MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MAY 1982

Israel

Sharon Visit to U.S. -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon departed for the United States to confer with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, Jerusalem radio reported. During his meetings Sharon will discuss the autonomy issue, Palestinian terrorism, the supply of U.S. weapons to Arab countries and the memorandum of understanding. MA'ARIV said that during the visit Sharon will also express Israel's willingness to strengthen political-security coordination and cooperation with the United States. However, a senior official cited by the paper said Israel will oppose any U.S. proposal for defense cooperation that would prevent Israel from being able to act freely against the terrorists in Lebanon.

Shamir on Jerusalem -- Israel "would be losing" the autonomy negotiations before they started if it ceased insisting that Jerusalem be a venue for the autonomy talks, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told immigrants in a speech reported by Jerusalem radio. Criticizing Egyptian obstinacy over the issue, he said no international resolution will change the fact that Jerusalem is Israel's capital.

Security Situation -- A molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli car east of Jerusalem, injuring the driver, Jerusalem radio reported.

Arab Relations With Zaire

Qatar has decided to sever diplomatic and economic relations with Zaire, Qatari Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Ath-Thani disclosed in a statement reported by WAKH. Branding Zaire's decision to resume relations with Israel "an act of aggression" against Arab and Islamic countries, the shaykh said Qatar's decision is in line with Arab, Islamic and African resolutions concerning countries that resume relations with Israel.

Meanwhile, according to a Foreign Ministry announcement reported by APS, Algeria has recalled its ambassador in Kinshasa.

Egypt

Arab-Egypt Reconciliation Document -- Jordan is currently working with some moderate Arab states on a joint document defining the basic principles to which Egypt should be committed in order to return to the Arab fold, Monte Carlo radio reported, citing Jordanian sources. A reliable source cited by AFP said the document would not be a "series of conditions" for Egypt to fulfill but a memorandum on "minimum requirements" for the reestablishment of full Arab-Egyptian relations. Arab moderates are seeking a consensus with Egypt over the issue of the Palestinians, the Israeli-occupied territories and the inter-Arab military defense treaties, the source said. He added that Egypt's readiness to furnish aid to Iraq and the Gulf countries is seen as a positive factor toward an Arab rapprochement with Egypt. However, the source also noted that the moderate Arab states want Egypt to show the same determination in reacting to an eventual Israeli aggression. Neither the radio nor the press agency report identified which Arab states other than Jordan are involved in drafting the document.

Munitions Production -- Egypt is about to complete "two huge modern projects" for the production of arms, heavy equipment and rocket engines, Minister of State for War Production Jamal ad-Din as-Sayyid Ibrahim stated in an interview with AL-AHRAM cited by MENA. Ibrahim said Egypt has been able to meet all ammunition requirements for its armed forces and is now completely self-reliant.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian forces killed more than 300 Iraqis and destroyed 58 tanks and armored personnel carriers during a 19 May Iraqi offensive in the border region west of Hoseyniyeh, according to an armed forces and Guard Corps communique carried by Tehran radio. It said the Iranians destroyed the 3d Iraqi Tank Battalion and completely surrounded the 388th Iraqi Infantry Battalion. During the clash the Iraqis brought new tanks into the area, only to be forced to retreat after losing the tanks and suffering heavy casualties, the communique reported.

A military communique carried by Baghdad radio said only 39 Iraqis were killed during fighting on 19 and 20 May in the area north of Khorramshahr and in the Gilan-e Gharb area. The communique reiterated a previously reported claim that 658 Iranians were killed during the Iraqi offensive north of Khorramshahr on 19 May.

Iran

Fourteen key members of the minority faction of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq guerrillas in Khuzestan have been arrested, according to a Tehran prosecutor's office statement carried by Tehran radio. The main safehouses of the group, along with its printing house, were discovered during operations by the prosecutor's office, the statement added.

Lebanon

Christian militiamen in southern Lebanon opened fire on five terrorists belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who had planted mines on a road near Marj 'Uyun, IDF radio reported citing a Christian militia spokesman. The radio added that a UNIFIL helicopter was fired on from a terrorist position in the western sector of southern Lebanon.

PLO

Executive Committee member Ahmad al-Yamani confirmed the existence of an official invitation to Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi to visit Washington, Monte Carlo radio reported. The radio said the invitation was issued by U.S. Senator Charles Percy and Congressman Lee Hamilton. Al-Yamani said he advised Qaddumi on 17 May, during a meeting of the Executive Committee, to reject the invitation.

Jordan

King Husayn will visit the USSR in June, Monte Carlo radio reported citing informed Jordanian sources. Monitored Jordanian sources have not reported on Husayn's visit to the USSR.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 099 *21 May 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Klibi Scores Zairian Recognition of Israel [LE MONDE 19 May] A 1
Arab League Official on Arab-African Relations [KUNA] A 1
Arab Fund Suspends All Activities in Zaire [SUNA] A 2
'Arafat Criticizes Zaire, Costa Rica Decisions [VOP] A 2
Yasir 'Arafat Receives GDR Delegation 19 May [VOP] A 2
'Arafat Receives Castro Message on Falklands [VOP] A 3
New PLO Representative to UAE Nominated [AL-KHALIJ 15 May] A 3
PFLP Confirms Qaddumi's Invitation to Visit U.S. [Monte Carlo] A 3
PFLP Spokesman Calls for Steadfastness Summit [KUNA] A 3
VOP Comments on Palestinian-Lebanese Clashes A 4
VOP Comments on New Interpretation of Cease-Fire A 5

OPEC AFFAIRS

Ecuador Supports Continued Production Cutbacks [LATIN] B 1
Experts Say OPEC Strengthened by Recent Measures [EFE] B 1
Calderon Berti Comments [AFP] B 2
President Opposes Indefinite Oil Quotas, Ceilings [AFP] B 3
Time To Lift Limits [EFE] B 3
Ministers Comment on Oil Prices, Production [Quito] B 4
Oil Ministers Meet To Discuss Prices, Production [EFE] B 5
Nigerian Oil Official on Raising Production [NAN] B 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

AL-ADWA' Scorns Barrier to Gulf Cooperation [15 May] C 1

KUWAIT

U.S. 'Exploiting' Gulf War To Impose Influence C 2
U.S. Plays 'Dangerous Game' in Middle East [AL-QABAS 18 May] C 2
Daily Calls for Bolstering Domestic Front [AL-QABAS 19 May] C 3

QATAR

Diplomatic, Economic Relations With Zaire Cut C 4

SAUDI ARABIA

Interior Official: GCC Agreed on Security Plan C 5
Prince Sa'ud Reportedly To Visit Syria, Algeria [AL-ANBA' 20 May] C 5
AL-MADINAH On Iranian Foreign Ministry Statement [17 May] C 5
'UKAZ Urges Arab-Egyptian Reconciliation [14 May] C 7

UAE

Foreign Ministry Official Meets EPLF Chairman C 8
Eritrean Liberation Front Leader Visits UAE C 9
Meets With 'Ajman Ruler C 9
Meets With Al-Qasimi C 9
Praises Gulf Support C 9
European Committee's Jerusalem Meeting Scored C 10
Press Denounces Israeli-Zairian Relations C 10
AL-KHALIJ on U.S. 'Military Deterrent' [18 May] C 11
U.S. Military Network Around Gulf Denounced C 11
[AL-KHALIJ 19 May]

PDRY

PLFP Official Meets 'Ali Nasir Muhammad C 13
'Ali Nasir Muhammad Receives PLFO Delegation C 13

EGYPT

Mubarak, Governors Attend Cabinet Meeting D 1
Call for Increased Production D 1
Ash-Sharif on Meeting D 1
Resignation of Petroleum Minister Denied D 3
'Ali Interviewed on Mideast Issues, U.S. D 3
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 May]
Morocco Extends Invitation to Conference D 6
Sudanese Interior Minister Arrives 17 May D 6
African Military Seminar Ends in Cairo 20 May D 6
U.S., Arab Roles in Peace Process Viewed D 7
Ibrahim Discusses Egyptian War Industry D 8

IRAQ

Arabs Urged To 'Firmly Confront' Zaire, Costa Rica E 1
Tariq 'Aziz Returns to Baghdad From Arab Tour E 1
LE MONDE Reports Increasing Kurdistan Unrest [15 May] E 1
Armed Forces General Command Communique No 717 E 2

JORDAN

Husayn Reportedly To Visit USSR in June [Monte Carlo] F 1
AD-DUSTUR Scores Timing of Sharon U.S. Visit F 1
Terms for Egypt's Return Being Drafted [Monte Carlo] F 1
AR-RA'Y Raps Council of Europe, Stand on Zaire F 2

LEBANON

Higher Coordination Committee Meets in Damascus G 1
'Arafat Meets With Lebanese Nationalist Movement [VOP] G 1
VOL on Reasons for Syrian-PLO 'Differences' G 1
U.S. Has Different Notion of Cease-Fire G 1
Sidon Responds to Joint Command Strike Call [VOP] G 2
More on Strike G 2
Official Stand on Sidon Incidents Criticized [VOP] G 2
Court Orders Arrest of Army Convoy Assailants G 3
Sidon Problem Said To Be Contained 20 May [VOP] G 3
Communists Urge Attack on U.S. Interests G 4
[AN-NAHAR 16 May]

SYRIA

Hafiz al-Asad Confers With DFLP Delegation H 1
Foreign Minister Receives PLO Officials 20 May H 1
Al-Ahmar Receives Soviet Peace Delegation H 1
Somali Delegation Arrives in Damascus 20 May H 2
Armored Unit Carries Out Tactical Exercise H 2

ISRAEL

MAPAM Faction Objects to Peretz, Linn Move I 1
Labor Faction Seeks Clarification of Party Stand I 1
Defense Minister Sharon Departs for U.S. I 1
Sharon's Objectives [HA'ARETZ 20 May] I 1
'Senior Official' on Objectives [MA'ARIV 20 May] I 2
IDF Officer Warns of Reduced Early Warning Time I 2
[BAMAHANE 20 May]
Minister Tzipori Warns of Action in Lebanon I 3
[DAVAR 20 May]
Increased Terrorist Activity Noted in S. Lebanon I 3
Haddad Protests to UNIFIL I 4
IDF Sources Comment on Syrian Army Exercise I 4
Arab Sources on Syrian Air Force Problems I 4
[DAVAR 21 May]
Prime Minister Sends Message to Zaire's Mobutu I 5
Zairian Envoy on Embassy I 5
Jerusalem Arabic on Arab Reaction to Zaire Move I 5
Begin Asks Embassies To Move to Jerusalem I 6
[POST 19 May]
Shamir Criticizes Egypt Over Jerusalem Issue I 6
Rabin on Camp David, Relations With Egypt I 7
New Village Leagues Set Up in Janin, Tulkarm I 8
[YOMAN HASHAVU'A 19 May]
U.S. Consul Reportedly Boycotts Arab Moderates I 8
[YOMAN HASHAVU'A 19 May]
Molotov Cocktails Thrown at IDF Vehicles 19 May I 8
Molotov Cocktail Thrown at Car; One Wounded I 8
Menahem Milson's Policy in Territories Reviewed I 8
[POST 21 May]
U.S. Appeals for End to Military Aid to Iran I 11
[MA'ARIV 19 May]
EEC Council of Ministers President To Visit 29 May I 11

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

OAU Denies Conference Canceled Due to SDAR [AFP] P 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Government Recalls Ambassador to Zaire Q 1

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdahfi Attends Paratroop Exercise 19 May Q 1
Liberation Front Official Interviewed on Aims Q 1
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 May]

MOROCCO

Boucetta To Visit Cairo 'in Next Few Days' Q 2

SUDAN

MENA Cites Assembly Speaker on Integration Plans Q 3

TUNISIA

Mzali Interviewed on Arab-Egypt Relations [KUNA] Q 3

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives R 1
Talks With Foreign Minister R 1
Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR R 1
SERTO ADER Warns of Discontent Over Supplies [AFP] R 2

KENYA

President Moi Expels Oginga Odinga From KANU R 3
Odinga Replies to Critics on Plan To Form Party R 3
[DAILY NATION 20 May]
Briefs: Outgoing Bangladesh High Commissioner R 4

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Relations With Israel Not To Be Restored [AFP] T 1
Rawlings Says 'Ghana Has Long Way To Go' T 1

IVORY COAST

'No Question of Restoring Ties' With Israel T 2

LIBERIA

Commerce Minister To Lead Delegation to USSR T 2

MALI

Traore Receives Iraqi Minister, Invitation T 2

NIGER

Mitterrand Sees French Role in Sahara Conflict [AFP] T 3
Mitterrand Speaks on Solidarity With Africa T 3

NIGERIA

Shagari Commended for Granting Pardon to Ojukwu T 5
Gowon: 'Absolutely Correct' T 5
Press Reaction T 6
Anambra State House Assembly T 6
International Conference on Namibia Supported T 7

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

South Africa Forces Bomb Cahama, Other Towns U 1
USSR Official Arrives; To Examine Naval Complex U 1

COMOROS

Former Foreign Minister Sentenced to Jail [AFP] U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

Saboteurs Damage Zimbabwe-Mozambique Pipeline U 2

NAMIBIA

Clergymen Report Atrocities by RSA Soldiers [NAN] U 2

KLIBI SCORES ZAIRIAN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

PM191437 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 May 82 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Israel"]

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Klibi, commenting on Zaire's decision to restore diplomatic relations with Israel, told us: "At a time when the great Egyptian people are trying to regain their dignity, is it conceivable that Zaire should take the unfortunate initiative of reestablishing relations with Israel under conditions that constitute an insult to the future of Arab-African cooperation? By dealing it this blow -- whose consequences nobody can foresee -- President Mobutu is assuming a very great burden of responsibility in the eyes of history."

ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIAL ON ARAB-AFRICAN RELATIONS

LD200920 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0735 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Tunis, 20 May (KUNA) -- 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs, has expressed his belief that other Arab countries will follow Saudi Arabia's lead in severing diplomatic relations with Zaire in reply to its recent decision to restore relations with Israel.

In an exclusive interview with KUNA, 'Imran was asked what steps the Arab League has taken to punish Zaire for its departure from "Arab-African unanimity" by restoring relations with Israel. He replied: The Arab League Secretariat has taken a number of measures in this regard. These include suspending all aid to Zaire by the Arab Development Bank for Africa, calling on pan-Arab and national Arab banks to suspend all financial and economic relations with Zaire and having the Arab League secretary general send special envoys to meet with African heads of state to explain the grave effect Zaire's decision will have on Arab-African understanding.

'Imran added that the Arab League has also called on the UN secretary general to exercise his "influence" to persuade it to respect the UN Security Council resolution calling on member countries to withhold recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

'Adnan 'Imran said he expects other Arab countries to follow Saudi Arabia's lead in severing diplomatic relations with Kinshasa.

In his capacity as head of the Arab side in the Arab-European dialogue, he was asked about the reason for the present stalemate in this dialogue. He replied that the ball is now in the European court and the Arabs are not responsible for the stalemate. He added that perhaps the real reason was the absence of a clear and well-defined European attitude toward the main issues in the dialogue, particularly the Palestine question."

He added that "out of their belief in the principle of cooperation with Europe, which should be based on complete understanding for resolving current problems, the Arab countries are prepared to continue the dialogue when more encouraging factors are, we hope, created by the European side in the future."

Asked about the decision by the Political Committee of the Council of Europe to hold a meeting in the occupied territory, 'Imran said the Arab League Secretariat General will study the results of this meeting and its repercussions in preparation for submitting the matter to the Arab League member countries for a decision.

The Arab League, it is recalled, decided at its emergency meeting in Tunis last March to hold a new emergency session to discuss what steps should be taken if the Political Committee of the Council of Europe were to insist on holding its meeting in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Arab diplomatic sources in Tunis have criticized "the importance" the Arab countries have attached to the meeting of the council's Political Committee in Jerusalem. The sources, which refused to be named, said the Arabs should have held an Arab League council emergency session to discuss a matter that is even more important than the Political Committee's meeting in Jerusalem -- the participation by the United States and other Western countries in the Sinai multinational force, this matter "has given an international character to the Camp David accords."

ARAB FUND SUSPENDS ALL ACTIVITIES IN ZAIRE

JN191231 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1046 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Khartoum, 19 May (SUNA) -- The Arab Development Fund has decided to suspend all its development activities in Zaire because of the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel and the opening of its embassy in Jerusalem. A bulletin distributed here by the fund, said the Zairian's Government decision constitutes a most serious violation of Arab-African solidarity, which was defined by Arab-African summit conferences. The bulletin added that the fund, which was founded to support friendship, solidarity and cooperation between Arab and African peoples in their joint struggle against racism, discrimination and Zionism, cannot consider Zaire a partner in the Arab-African cooperation plan. In addition to the suspension of the fund's activities in Zaire, the fund's administration is reconsidering other aspects of relations with Zaire.

'ARAFAT CRITICIZES ZAIRE, COSTA RICA DECISIONS

NC191100 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has criticized Zaire's decision to restore diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity and Costa Rica's decision to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

In a statement published in the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ today, he said the PLO will hold contacts at the Arab League and the Islamic states level to discuss the response to these decisions. Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed the need for all Arab states to stand against Zaire vis-a-vis its decision to restore relations with the Zionist entity. He said the transfer of the Costa Rican Embassy to occupied Jerusalem shows how division in the Arab nation encouraged Costa Rica to make such a decision.

YASIR 'ARAFAT RECEIVES GDR DELEGATION 19 MAY

JN201711 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 20 May 82

[Excerpt] The PLO chairman yesterday evening also met with a delegation from the German Democratic Republic headed by Comrade Kirchhoff, member of the Central Committee of the unified German socialist party, vice president of the GDR National Front and president of the GDR friendship committee with the Palestinian people. The tense situation in the region and the Israeli threats to attack southern Lebanon were discussed in the meeting, as well as the mass uprising in the occupied territory. Comrade Kirchhoff carried an oral message from Comrade Erich Honecker, secretary general of the unified German socialist party and president of state concerning the GDR solidarity with the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people. The meeting was attended by Fatah Revolutionary Council member Abu 'Ala, who is president of the Palestinian friendship committee with the GDR.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES CASTRO MESSAGE ON FALKLANDS

JN201717 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a cable from Cuban President Fidel Castro, president of the nonaligned countries group, in which he indicated that British forces, with the support of U.S. imperialism, are preparing to invade the Falkland Islands and expand their aggression against Argentina so it will be a lesson for Third World countries. The cable calls for exerting effective pressure on British authorities to prevent military threats and to search for a political solution based on respecting Argentine sovereignty and the nonaligned countries' decision on the Falkland Islands.

NEW PLO REPRESENTATIVE TO UAE NOMINATED

GF151520 Doha QNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 May (QNA) -- The UAE newspaper AL-KHALIJ reported today that the PLO has nominated lawyer Anis al-Khatib to serve as director and representative of its office in the UAE. He will succeed Ribhi 'Awad, who has been transferred to another post.

Mr al-Khatib is scheduled to arrive in Abu Dhabi by the end of this month to assume his duties. He is a Palestine National Council member and is in charge of PLO media in Syria.

PFLP CONFIRMS QADDUMI'S INVITATION TO VISIT U.S.

JN210722 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] Ahmad al-Yamani, alias Abu Mahir, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Political Bureau and the PLO Executive Committee, [PFLP] yesterday confirmed the existence of an official invitation to Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, from two U.S. congressmen, Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House of Representatives Subcommittee for Europe and the Middle East, to visit Washington.

Al-Yamani explained that despite denials by U.S. officials, this invitation was indeed given to At-Tarazi, PLO representative in the United Nations, who, in turn, handed it to Qaddumi. At the same time, Al-Yamani expressed the PFLP's reservations over this invitation and said that during a 17 May meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, he advised Qaddumi to reject the invitation.

PFLP SPOKESMAN CALLS FOR STEADFASTNESS SUMMIT

LD201630 Kuwait KUNA in English 1201 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May (KUNA) -- The official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, [PFLP] Bassam Abu Sharif, has called for the convening of an urgent summit by leaders of the Arab Steadfastness Front to work out a plan "to confront current Zionist-American schemes."

In the meantime, he disclosed that foreign ministers of the front are likely to meet in Algiers soon to prepare for this summit.

The front, opposed to peace moves with Israel, comprises Algeria, Libya, Syria, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria last week visited Libya and Algeria where he held talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Chadli Bendjedid on measures to confront attempts by certain Arab countries to bring Egypt back to the Arab fold.

The PFLP spokesman said the Arab countries which severed economic and political ties with the regime of late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat for signing a peace treaty with Israel should not restore these ties unless the government of President Husni Mubarak "abrogates the Camp David conspiracy, stops the process of normalization of relations with the Zionist entity and abandons all related agreements."

The Palestinian official affirmed that Israel was massing troops along the borders with Lebanon and said the Israeli rulers aim at causing a political, military and moral setback to the Palestinian revolution and eventually demoralise the Palestinian people under occupation.

Accusing the Reagan administration of collaboration with Israel to realise this target, Abu Sharif at a press conference at the PLO office here rejected the interpretation of the present ceasefire agreement between the PLO and Israel and said the PLO had agreed to a temporary halt of hostilities nine months ago at the request of the U.N. but added that this agreement had been violated by Israel several times through air raids and bombardment of Palestinian and Lebanese civilian targets killing and wounding dozens of innocent people.

He said that the Palestinians can never agree to a ceasefire with Israel because this would mean an end to their struggle against the aggressor and the occupier of their homeland.

Abu Sharif said that his front, headed by Dr. George Habash, and other Palestinian commando organisations will step up their military operations against the Israeli colonialists in the occupied Arab territories in retaliation for the continuing Israeli suppression and terror against the Palestinian people.

He said that his front rejects all peace plans calling for recognition, reconciliation or negotiations with Israel "because these plans aim at liquidating the Palestinian revolution which must be prepared for confrontation with the Zionist enemy and its American guardian."

VOP COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE CLASHES

JN182035 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 May 82

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] The subject of this commentary is the organization of the national arena and the currently important and urgent alliance relations. The domestic situation in the national arena is the focus of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples' concern following the regrettable events in Sidon preceded by events in Tripoli, Beirut and several southern locations. The popular concern about the internal situation in the national Lebanese arena, no matter how bitter or cruel its response, stems from the genuine popular desire for a better situation in the national arena in maintaining good relations between its allies and providing security and peace for the citizens, particularly in the face of the continuous Zionist threat against man and land. We, the Palestinian revolution and the Nationalist Lebanese Forces, must admit that we make mistakes and when we correct such mistakes, only a quick, temporary solution is achieved, thus allowing the problem to arise elsewhere in a different form.

We, the Palestine revolution and the Nationalist Lebanese Forces, are compelled to revise our problem-solving methods and to lay down new, firm foundations to organize relations between the allies on the one hand and the masses on the other in a manner that will reassure the masses and guarantee the steadfastness in the principal battle against the Zionist enemy and its agents.

VOP COMMENTS ON NEW INTERPRETATION OF CEASE-FIRE

JN191903 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1805 GMT 19 May 82

[Station commentary: "A New Term for Draper's Mission"]

[Text] A new political term has appeared for the mission of Morris Draper, U.S. envoy to the Middle East. It is said Draper is coming to unify the various interpretations of the cease-fire reached last July. This new term is aimed at introducing the Zionist interpretation on the cease-fire as a moot question. The United Nations, through whose offices the cease-fire was arrenged, has enough clear and definite information on this particular point. This information was disseminated at the time. Nevertheless, we may recall that the Palestinian side committed itself to the cease-fire. Naturally, it is unimaginable that the cease-fire in the south means confiscating the right of the Palestinians to resist occupation on all levels, particularly in the occupied homeland. The PLO has made its position clear and has been committed to this position -- to continue its armed struggle in the occupied territories and from across other borders.

We do not find it strange for the Draper mission to be aimed, among other things, at introducing the arbitrary Zionist interpretation of the cease-fire in south Lebanon. The U.S. position has never and will never deviate from commitment to Israel's interest, which is an extension of the U.S. interest. We are not concerned with any Israeli or U.S. interpretations. We are concerned with out commitments. We do not accept interpretations from anyone. The cease-fire was reached following a war of aggression the Zionist enemy initiated against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. This turned out to be a painful defeat for the Zionists at the hands of the joint forces that were committed to their responsibilities to protect their masses and deter the sinful Zionist hand, which extends to attack these masses and threaten their lives and security. The joint forces will remain true to their masses.

When we responded to the UN calls for cease-fire provided that the other party responded, it was clear that this commitment to cease-fire would not be applied outside the southern border and would not limit the right of the Palestinian revolution to exercise its legitimate struggle on all fields. We were careful to make this point very clear and to practice it in an obvious manner. We renew our adherance to our firm position and to the seriousness and credibility of our commitments. If some exploit this position and attempt to introduce new interpretations to the cease-fire, we will not be concerned with such interpretations. We will continue to fight the occupation with all means available to us. This is a right guaranteed by the United Nations and by our inalienable right to resist occupation. We will always be ready to fight the enemy and confront its aggressions with force, particularly if the enemy attempts to put into practice its interpretation of the cease-fire to include all fronts.

Any new Zionist aggression will meet with firm response from us. If the enemy adheres to the correct interpretation of the cease-fire, we will continue our adherence to it without affecting our right to resist the enemy on all levels, particularly in the occupied homeland.

ECUADOR SUPPORTS CONTINUED PRODUCTION CUTBACKS

PA201434 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0738 GMT 18 May 82

[By Jorge Aguirre]

[Text] Quito, 18 May (LATIN-REUTER) -- Eduardo Ortega, minister of natural resources and energy, insisted yesterday on the need for OPEC "to establish a long-term strategy to pave the way for a North-South dialogue."

"This long-term strategy will have to be studied at the Quito meeting that begins on Thursday," Ortega noted, referring to the OPEC meeting that opens Thursday in the Ecuadorean capital.

"We are on the threshold of a new international economic order that will favor the poor countries that produce crude and will also benefit the industrialized world," he said at the opening yesterday of a seminar for journalists, sponsored by OPEC.

The meeting, to open within 2 days, will be the 64th ordinary conference of the organization, and 13 members have already confirmed that they will attend, Ortega said.

The Ecuadorean minister, who heads the meeting's organizational activities, commented there was nothing to decide as far as prices are concerned.

"In this respect, the last resolution of OPEC to maintain the current prices until the end of 1982 is still in effect; therefore, there is nothing to decide," he declared.

He also said the organization had decided to maintain the reduction of its joint crude production, since the world market has not responded appropriately.

"I believe it is wise to maintain the production ceilings for a while longer," he noted.

When the organization met in Vienna 2 months ago, it froze the referential tariffs at $34 per barrel, and for the first time in its history, it fixed production quotas for the members.

Referring to other issues, the OPEC meeting in Quito will cover some internal issues, such as the approval of a budget and the strengthening of the General Secretariat, while concerning external matters, it will discuss the Venezuelan and Ecuadorean proposal for the creation of an OPEC "institute of higher studies."

"OPEC has shown the way for the welfare of all the world's countries, and a route of justice for the poor nations. We cannot be forced to deviate from this route, because it is a historic struggle and the paths of history cannot be changed by anything," he pointed out.

EXPERTS SAY OPEC STRENGTHENED BY RECENT MEASURES

PA201436 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2117 GMT 18 May 82

[Excerpts] Caracas, 18 May (EFE) -- AFter 2 days of analysis, OPEC experts have come to the conclusion that the measures taken to avoid a disastrous fall in prices have yielded good results.

In light of market studies, it can be seen that the surpluses the industrialized powers were able to amass in an attempt to force a price drop had to be taken out of storage.

Establishing overall OPEC production at 17.5 million barrels daily brought serious difficulties to the economies of some member nations; nevertheless, according to the analysis made in Caracas, it also strengthened the organization's negotiating position.

One of the main objectives of the measures was to maintain stable prices and avoid a sudden price drop on the international market.

Despite the problems of some members, the decision to lower OPEC's overall production, in the opinion of the Venezuelan observers and oil experts attending the Caracas meeting, contributed to a remarkable strengthening of the organization.

The prices have been maintained and an oil glut on the international market is no longer a problem, thereby creating a more stable balance between supply and demand.

The oil cartel is now preparing for the Quito conference where it will publicly reveal the conclusions reached at the experts meeting in the assembly halls of Caracas' "central park."

So far, the somber prospects that threatened the OPEC members appear to have vanished, giving way to open optimism for the upcoming months.

Calderon Berti Comments

PA210132 Paris AFP in Spanish 2228 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Quito, 20 May (AFP) -- Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti said in Quito he believs OPEC must maintain control over its production until at least the end of the year.

Calderon Berti pointed out this is one of the recommendations to be submitted to the OPEC ministers meeting, which opened today, by the marketing continuity committee, which met for 2 days in Caracas earlier this week.

The Venezuelan minister explained it is not necessary to maintain the present production limit, fixed at 17.5 million barrels a day; rather a more flexible ceiling that would respond to market conditions should be used.

"What we want," he reiterated, "is to obtain an equilibrium between supply and demand."

The Venezuelan energy minister said he is convinced there will be no differences on that issue among the 13 OPEC members, now holding their regular semi-annual meeting here in Quito.

Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabian petroleum and mineral affairs minister, said his country does not favor a continuation of controls over production.

The incumbent OPEC president, Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources of the United Arab Emirates, also expressed hopes that market trends in coming weeks will permit the elimination of ceilings.

Calderon Berti, however, said 'Utaybah's speech at the conference opening "was not properly interpreted" and maintained that all OPEC members agree on the need to maintain "some kind of limit" on production until the end of the year, although it does not necessarily have to be the present ceiling of 17.5 million barrels.

"We do not want to maintain controls beyond the necessary time, but neither do we want to run short," the Venezuelan minister said.

PRESIDENT OPPOSES INDEFINITE OIL QUOTAS, CEILINGS

PA201928 Paris AFP in Spanish 1847 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Quito, 20 May (AFP) -- Incumbent OPEC President Mani' ibn Sa'id al-Utaybah today voiced opposition to indefinitely maintaining a ceiling on the production of the 13 OPEC member countries.

During March, OPEC established production quotas for its members and an overall ceiling of 17.5 million barrels a day for their combined production to counteract the glut that sent crude prices reeling.

In a speech at the opening of the 64th OPEC ministerial meeting today, Al-Utaybah said OPEC's objective is to "defend" the oil market and not to try to sway it artificially.

He said once the present market situation is overcome the quotas and production ceilings must not be maintained. He added both can be replaced by a long-term strategy, which OPEC has been considering for a long time without reaching any definite conclusions.

Al-'Utaybah is the petroleum and natural resources minister of the United Arab Emirates and head of his country's delegation to the OPEC meeting being held here.

His opinion about the production ceilings differs from that of some of his colleagues, who feel it is advisable to keep the oil supply limited in order to keep the major consuming countries from accumulating large reserves capable of being used as a weapon to reduce prices.

The dumping of excess reserves by industrialized countries early this year sent oil prices reeling and forced OPEC to establish production ceilings for the first time in its 20-year existence.

Time To Lift Limits

PA202216 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2150 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Quito, 20 May (EFE) -- Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, OPEC's outgoing president, expressed his belief today that the time has come to lift the production limit of 17.5 million barrels of oil a day, which was agreed upon by OPEC in Vienna last March.

Al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, made the announcement at the opening of the 64th OPEC ministerial conference, noting that the market trend is improving.

The next OPEC president for a 6-month period will be Eduardo Ortega, Ecuadorean natural resources and energy minister.

Ortega was elected immediately after the opening of the conference. He will preside over OPEC until December, when the next ministerial meeting takes place.

According to Al-'Utaybah, the world oil market has partially improved in recent weeks and some sales were even better than the $34 per barrel officially approved by OPEC.

Al-'Utaybah believes the international oil market will change in the future and OPEC should face it in a different way. "Maybe," he added, "by use of the long-term strategy that was postponed because of the crisis."

Al-'Utaybah also mentioned what a sacrifice the decision to jointly reduce production from 20 to 17.5 million barrels a day was for OPEC members.

Al-'Utaybah feels a definite long-term strategy should be adapted to the market's new conditions which the 13 OPEC members have tried to implement for the past 2 years.

He also referred to the advantage of this decision in facing the aggressive attack by the transnationals, which, he said, is being properly handled.

'Ali al-Kalifah al-Adhbi as-Sabah, Kuwait's oil affairs minister, was elected vice president of the conference, which was inaugurated by Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado.

President Hurtado said in his speech that the reduction in oil production was a unanimous sacrifice by OPEC members intended to improve that market.

The OPEC ministers will primarily analyze the general situation of the world's oil market and will reach decisions on prices and production.

MINISTERS COMMENT ON OIL PRICES, PRODUCTION

PA201440 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] On his arrival in Quito to participate in the OPEC conference that will open today, Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabia's minister of petroleum and mineral affairs said last night oil prices will not be changed. The conference will be opened today by President Oswaldo Hurtado.

Yamani said in April, his country's daily oil production dropped from the 7 million barrel level to 6.5 million barrels.

The closed door OPEC meeting will last until Friday, according to observers. It is possible the conference will discuss a possible revision of the total daily production limit of 17.5 million barrels, which was agreed to in March in Vienna.

Humberto Calderon Berti, Venezuelan energy and mines minister, has stated that daily production could be increased by 2 or 3 million barrels during the second half of the year. Berti said: I believe the present daily production level of the 13 OPEC countries is 16.5 million barrels. The Venezuelan minister continued: We have to control production until the end of the year. He agreed with Yamani in that this year, prices, for sure, will not be changed.

Other oil ministers have said the $34 per barrel price for light oil will be maintained, but they did not agree with increasing the present production level. Strict security measures have been set in connection with the conference.

All the delegates to the meeting are already in Quito.

The Ecuadorean delegation is headed by Eduardo Ortega, natural resources and energy minister, who will preside over the conference.

Jorge Pareja, manager of the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation, said last night Ecuador firmly defends the present oil prices. He said during a news conference a production increase depends on market conditions, and Ecuador will obey the resolutions of OPEC to maintain discipline within the organization.

The reduction in production, which was approved by OPEC in March, in Vienna, represented a drop in production of 20,000 barrels daily for Ecuador, a loss of $350,000 daily.

Pareja said Ecuador's daily oil production in 1983 will be 250,000 barrels, and this will remain stable until the end of the decade. Ecuador's present production rate is 220,000 barrels per day.

OIL MINISTERS MEET TO DISCUSS PRICES, PRODUCTION

PA210326 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0108 GMT 21 May 82

[Exceprt] Quito, 20 May (EFE) -- The 64th meeting of OPEC ministers ended its first day of sessions with the study of internal administrative affairs and the report of the "marketing continuity committee."

At the end of the deliberations, Secretary General Marc Nan N'guema said that as yet there are no signs of resolutions on prices and production levels, the two crucial issues for the petroleum group at this time. He also said there are no contradictions between today's remarks by outgoing President Mani' ibn Sa'id al-Utaybah and those of Venezuelan Minister Humberto Calderon about production ceilings.

NIGERIAN OIL OFFICIAL ON RAISING PRODUCTION

AB210802 Lagos NAN in English 0708 GMT 21 May 82

[By Damian Obika]

[Text] Quito, 20 May (NAN) -- The production of crude oil in Nigeria is expected to reach 1.1 million barrels per day by the end of next month, an official of the Nigerian delegation to the OPEC oil ministers conference said yesterday in Quito, Ecuador. The official, Alex Nwokedi, public affairs manager of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, told a NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent in Quito that oil production currently was 835,000 barrels per day and that it could reach one million barrels per day by the end of next month.

Mr Nwokedi dismissed as pure speculation a REUTER report yesterday that production could reach 1.3 million in the immediate future. "We are coming up, but we can't be too optimistic," he observed. "Even if we reach a production level of 1.1 million barrels per day, we are still below the mark of 1.3 million barrels per day assigned to us by OPEC," he said.

In a related development, [words indistinct] the meeting would end in greater unity for the organization.

The executive officer of the Ecuadorean National Oil Company, Jorge Pareja, said that OPEC had no intention of changing the market price of $34 dollars per barrel of crude oil. Competent sources told NAN that a decision to leave the market price at 34 dollars was taken recently in Caracas, Venezuela, by an OPEC ministers committee.

The Saudi Arabian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Shaykh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, said on arrival yesterday that the market price of oil should be frozen at 34 dollars for the rest of the year. He said that his country produced 6.5 million barrels of oil a day.

Mr Pareja observed: "We shall come out of this conference more united. We have seen through the Nigerian case that working together is better than working in different directions."

The Nigerian delegation of six officials is led by the presidential adviser on petroleum and energy, Malam Yahaya Dikko.

BAHRAIN

AL-ADWA' SCORNS BARRIER TO GULF COOPERATION

GF181110 Manama AL-ADWA' in Arabic 15 May 82 p 3

["Talk of the Week" column by Muhammad Qasim ash-Shirawi]

[Excerpts] The Gulf countries, government and peoples, especially the GCC member states, should protect themselves by adopting an authentic framework for Gulf cooperation and shield themselves with serious action through which they strive sincerely and faithfully to make this cooperation succeed in order to eliminate useless tribal chauvinism and harmful fragmentation.

The six Gulf states are called upon to steer one course that entitles them to eliminate artificial barriers which were created by imperialist forces in the past with the aim of imposing their well-known classical policy of "divide and rule." The Gulf states should not produce more schism or advocate closed-door sovereignty.

If the Gulf countries want to maintain their Arabism and maintain their regimes, they should open their doors to all their citizens through an authentic openness that links them to one another and strengthens their bonds.

No Gulf citizen can imagine a GCC member state failing to support this course on the plea that it had a disagreement with another country, thus withholding its generous offering and organic amalgamation in the Gulf group.

It does not occur to anyone, foreigner or Gulf citizen, that a border dispute between two fraternal countries whose peoples are of the same family could change into such a boycott, with the media ignoring an important move by the leadership of the other country -- a move that has drawn the attention of not only the Gulf but also the Arab and international worlds and has been reported by international news agencies.

Such an event is contrary to the nature of things in the Gulf and against the ancient heritage of the region's peoples whose relations have strengthened and who have become used to having contacts without artificial barriers or borders.

No stability, security or safety can guarantee the survival of the Arab Gulf regimes unless they adhere to and fuse with each other without secondary disagreements and introversion and in a mode that will open the borders of all these countries to each other without restrictions or conditions.

Nonetheless, it is astonishing and amazing that Arabic newspapers engage in secret machinations, sowing the seeds of discord instead of calling for allaying disagreements in the region which is the only one left capable of awakening its [Arab] world.

Those who sow the seeds of discord and escalate the situation by insinuation through their cheap writings and prepaid hints may render one view victorious over another under the impression they can shape events. However, the history of their nation will not have mercy on them and will hold them responsible for their intrigues.

Indeed, these writers cannot be described as other than hireling mercenaries exactly the same as foreign mercenary forces who fight on foreign territories and defend causes that do not belong to them.

We need only hint without further elaboration because such writers do not excel in anything but futile betraying destruction.

The contradiction lies in the fact that the citizens of the region used to travel and trade across their countries during the era of colonalism and under the umbrella of protection and servility without passports or restrictions. Today, after the establishment of the GCC, it seems they should go through 1,000 procedures and complications.

KUWAIT

U.S. 'EXPLOITING' GULF WAR TO IMPOSE INFLUENCE

LD191236 Kuwait KUNA in English 1056 GMT 19 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 19 May (KUNA) -- AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on the Gulf war: "Through examining the latest American statements accompanied by a media campaign over the Iraqi-Iranian war developments, it becomes clear the U.S. is about to reap the fruits. Playing on the strings of a possible enlargement of the scale of war and a Soviet readiness to intervene has begun as if Washington hasn't foreseen those possibilities throughout this war going on for twenty months now, or as if Washington has nothing to do with preparing this war and setting the stage for it.

"The U.S. declared its extreme concern over "its interests in the region" as a prelude to an internationalization move through which the U.S. could make use of regional fears to strengthen its grip and impose its hegemony even with a direct military presence if that was necessary.

"This is in fact the paramount American objective since the start of the Camp David. According to this conspiracy, Iraq was meant to be driven out of the Arab platform through some way other than that which had been used in the case of Egypt, that is through creating a certain situation in Iran and certain circumstance that would cause the eruption of this war and eventually pull Iraq into its inferno. This in turn would mean an acutal demolishing of the Arab eastern front on the military level as is done, within the same equation, with the role of oil in different ways. [sentence as received]

"Had Washington really wanted to save the region from this war it could have sought a reconciliation with the Soviet Union and both countries would have introduced an end to this war through halting the possibility of acquiring arms.

"If Tehran wishes to make a quick and simple review it will find that the U.S. made use of the new Iranian era, even if contrary to its want or wish, more than the regime of the shah had offered throughout its existence."

U.S. PLAYS 'DANGEROUS GAME' IN MIDDLE EAST

GF200638 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 May 82 p 1

[Editorial: "The United States Revives 'The Brink of the Abyss'"]

[Text] The United States plays a dangerous and dirty game in the Middle East with no guaranteed results. The Reagan administration still stupidly tries to make the Arab camel enter the eye of the needle of the U.S. strategy once from the neck and once from the tail without achieving any results. In spite of that, it continues with this attempt!

Reagan wants to prepare the international arena for the major meeting and the bitter negotiations with the Soviet Union over the next stage in the limitation of the production of strategic weapons -- that are extremely costly and that ruin the economies of the two countries -- without making genuine security achievements, or reaching a decisive superiority by any of the two sides. [sentence as published]

Day after day, the Reagan administration discovers that whenever it closes a gap in its strategic line, new gaps and holes appear in other places of the same line. The nearest of these holes, if not the latest, is the Greek hole, which threatens to cause profuse water leakage into the NATO ship. This will slow its movement, if not threaten to sink it. All the drugs used by the United States to mend the rift, including the drug of the Turkish military regime, have proven to be useless.

The dangerous game played by the United States from the shores of the Mediterranean to the Gulf waters, is an extension of the danger with the goal of enticing utmost fear in the region's governments, in hopes they will relax their positions, which are opposed to opening their countries for military bases and alliances.

Through the U.S. movements in the region and their implications, it seems that the Reagan administration is currently working in the direction of extending the Lebanese war for 6 more years through the presidential election, which is supposed to take place in late July, and through the encouraging of candidates who will find themselves in a position that is not much different from that of current President Elias Sarkis, if not in a worse condition! Furthermore, it is trying to extend the atmosphere of the Israeli threats, which range between ebb and flow, in order to escalate the state of tension, not only on the Palestinian level, but also on the level of a possible military confrontation with Syria.

This very position is repeated in the Gulf region. The United States -- through its control of the international weapons trade is trying to extend the Iraqi-Iranian war through devious means aimed at frightening the peoples of the Gulf region and pressuring them into seeking the U.S. umbrella, in the same way Egypt did or in a direct way.

This U.S. game will not necessarily succeed.... In the past former U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles danced long on the lines of his theory about "the brink of the abyss." The result was that he was the only one who fell into it!

DAILY CALLS FOR BOLSTERING DOMESTIC FRONT

GF201556 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 May 82 p 1

["Opinion Column" by Editor in Chief Ahmad Jasim an-Nasf]

[Text] Threats to the Gulf region have never desisted. They have only changed either in form and style or with regard to direct or indirect motivating forces. A few years ago the Gulf was exposed to a campaign of frantic U.S. statements on occupying the oil fields. Then Israeli threats were made which implied striking at vital oil installations in the region. Finally, the Iranian threats constituted the link in a series of dangers and avidities ensnaring the Arab Gulf region.

The region's countries have taken these threats seriously and are prepared for confronting these threats militarily within the framework of their legitimate right of self-defense. However, this does not belittle the importance of the cohesion of the domestic front of the Arab Gulf countries since this front is the first line of defense of the region in confronting any threat or any aggression whatsoever.

No matter how strong the military preparations are, they will not be complete without reliance on the cohesion of the domestic front and the mutual assistance of subjects and rulers in confronting external danger.

The required domestic cohesion should not be temporary or dependent on a specific threat. It should be permanent and stem from solid principles and the situation on the local level. The GCC member states are called upon to look within themselves, reevaluate their domestic situations politically, socially, and economically and plug gaps that would affect the unity and cohesion of their front.

The backbone of the cohesion of the domestic situation is the citizens' feelings of political, economic, and social justice and their feeling that the rulers' decisions are primarily aimed at their national welfare without discrimination and within comprehensive equality and ambitious economic and social development.

If some people believe the external perils are still far from them or they will be spared danger, they are under an illusion because the entire region will be exposed to danger, and threats will not distinguish one GCC country from another since avidities are one and dangers are collective.

The safety of the Gulf domestic front is the first line of defense of the region. At the same time, it is the main support to achieve national as well as the pan-Arab [qawmiyyah] ambitions.

QATAR

DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE CUT

GF201142 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Doha, 20 May (WAKH) -- The State of Qatar has decided to sever diplomatic and economic relations with Zaire.

This came in a statement by Qatari Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani. He said: The State of Qatar has adopted this decision in implementation of Arab, Islamic and African resolutions concerning the countries that resume relations with the Zionist enemy. He noted these resolutions were adopted because all are convinced of the just Arab cause and the legitimate Palestinian people's right to restore their land, for self-determination and to establish their independent state on this land, and of the need for solidarity with these fraternal people in their resistance to the racial and rancorous Zionist ambitions which Israel commits every crime to achieve.

In a statement to QNA, the Qatari foreign affairs minister said Zaire's decision to resume these relations and to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem is a violation of the African-Arab summit principles which were set in 1977, and the OAU resolutions on this issue. It also violates the principles of the UN Charter and its resolutions which have condemned the occupation by force of the Arab lands and [Israel's] continuous bestial aggressive practices against these territories and their legitimate proprietors.

In conclusion, the Qatari foreign affairs minister asserted that Zaire's decision is an act of aggression against the Arab and Islamic countries and a defiance of the will of the international community represented by its supreme organization, the United Nations.

SAUDI ARABIA

INTERIOR OFFICIAL: GCC AGREED ON SECURITY PLAN

GF201930 Doha QNA in Arabic 1844 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May (QNA) -- Dr Ibrahim al-'Awwaji, Saudi Interior Ministry undersecretary said in a statement published here today that the GCC interior ministers agreed during their recent meeting to lay down a joint security plan to confront any threats that the region may be subjected to.

In a statement made to the Kuwaiti magazine AL-YAQAZAH, the Saudi Interior Ministry undersecretary said this plan is currently being studied by specialists within the framework of the GCC General Secretariat. He explained this plan does not prevent the existence of bilateral security agreements among the GCC states.

He added the draft of the joint security plan of the GCC states will be submitted to the second GCC interior ministers conference, which will be held in October, for ratification.

Concerning the facilitation of travel of GCC states' citizens with a standardized travel document, he said this is aimed at easing restrictions that have been imposed on the travel of the citizens of the countries that have signed the GCC pact in order to bolster links among the region's peoples. He explained the decision awaits the necessary executive measures by the Gulf governments.

PRINCE SA'UD REPORTEDLY TO VISIT SYRIA, ALGERIA

GF200957 Doha QNA in Arabic 0935 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May (QNA) -- Quoting Gulf sources described as very high-ranking, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reported today that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal will visit Syria and Algeria before the GCC foreign ministers resume their meeting in Riyadh on 30 May.

The sources said during this tour, which is expected to begin by the end of next week, the Saudi minister will convey the Gulf countries' vision of the current developments in the Gulf region in particular, including the Iraqi-Iranian war, and Arab developments in general.

The newspaper reported the purpose of these visits will be to convey the vision of the Gulf group on what should be done about these developments and to convince the two countries of this view in order to have a unified Arab stand on all issues, including the issue of healing the rift in the deteriorating Arab relations, which weakens the Arab stand on all issues that concern the fate of the Arab nation.

AL-MADINAH ON IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

GF201301 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 17 May 82 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] The emergency meeting which the GCC foreign ministers held in Kuwait, during which the ministers discussed regional developments, particularly the (Iraqi-Iranian war), has shown the great maturity of the policy of the GCC countries toward this war.

Since the beginning of the (painful and bloody war between the two Muslim neighbors, Iraq and Iran) all moves and stands by the GCC countries have been aimed at ending this regrettable war to enable the two states to devote themselves to their internal development.

Because the war has not yet ended, its continuation has had grave consequences against which the GCC countries have been continuously warning and have been appealing to the two sides to respond to the calls to end this war.

A prominent feature is that Iraq has been incined to end this war with Iran. This is clearly indicated through statements by Muslim, Arab, international and nonaligned mediators. Iran, regrettably, has been intransigent in its stand and has rejected negotiations and affirmed that it will continue fighting until its announced objectives are realized.

What calls for attention is the commentary which the Iranian Foreign Minister issued on the eve of the emergency GCC foreign ministers conference in Kuwait. The commentary contained many grave warnings which are considered unusual in international relations and undermine the bases of good relations among brothers and neighbors whose faith and land are the same and who have common neighborliness and a history charaterized by unity and rapprochement.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry statement carried a clear warning to the Gulf countries and a serious threat to Iraq.

Iran, whose policy and dealings with other countries all over the world are confused, is violating all international norms and dealings with its explicit warnings to the countries of the region, while the stand of the Gulf countries, especially the GCC countries, in their relations with Iran and on the Iraqi-Iranian war, has been based on dignity, the principles of the righteous religion of Islam and good norms in regulating human relationships.

The GCC countries have been warning against the threats of this war between the two fraternal countries. His Majesty Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia and chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, has shown his personal desire in ending this war to benefit the two fraternal neighboring countries. (King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz) has been continously working to end this war through his consultations with the chairman of the Islamic Good Offices Committee, Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, and by learning the outcome of his efforts and those of the secretary general of the Islamic conference.

These good intentions by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and by the Islamic Good Offices Committee, have not been met with gratitude or acknowledgement by Iran. Indeed, the (stupid) planners of the Iranian policy have been rash; they have rejected every good and honorable effort by the Islamic world countries, who are the nearest people to them, and have also rejected the efforts of the people who are the farthest from them. The result of all this has been the devastation and division of their country.

Despite Iran's arrogant and rash policy, and despite its proud stands which claim to be adhering to Islam but which really have nothing to do with Islam, and its claims to be free of ignorance, in spite of doing the same deeds done during the period of ignorance, Saudi Arabia and its sisters in the GCC countries treat Iran as a brother. They wish both Iran and Iraq successs in ending hostilities and ending the war between them. They are also hoping they will be reconciled and become amicable after this animosity and estrangement to benefit their countries, their peoples and the Islamic world.

Hence, all the announced statements have been in harmony with the actual moves of the kingdom and its brothers and the Islamic world.

In his statement which was published yesterday, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz called for what the kingdom has been calling for: exercising every pressure to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war before it becomes impossible to control and before its danger and threat expand to involve other neighbors.

In his statement Prince Sultan also warned that the Iraqi-Iranianwar might make the region a theater of confrontation between the two superpowers, particularly since there are signs the Soviet Union is in complete agreement with the Iranian regime despite the Iranian regime's claims it is hostile to communism and despite the Tehran regime's pretense on that, a pretense which is exposed by the (close ties) between the Iranian communist Tudeh Party and the ruling Islamic Republican Party in Tehran. The two parties collaborated to crush other powers in Iran and recent events in Iran have proved this alliance between the two parties will ultimately consolidate the (Soviet) influence in Iran.

We, in these countries, base our stands on firm principles and we wish Iran what we wish for ourselves. We also wish the same for Iraq and for every fraternal Muslim country.

However, the Iranians, in their moves, policy stands and statements, are blowing up all the bridges of good intentions which the Islamic world is constructing with their country and regime, because the Iranian regime engaged in exporting plots and suffering to other Islamic countries. In this regard, the Iranian regime is copying the (Colonel al-Qadhdafi) regime which has exhausted (Libya) with ideological sabotage, devasted it economically, and dragged it back because of its criminal acts which have hindered the Libyan people's motivation and creativity.

The Iranians are calling on others not to interfere in their affairs. How can they allow the (stupid) officials in their government to interfere in the affairs of others and tell them what they should do?

'UKAZ URGES ARAB-EGYPTIAN RECONCILIATION

PM181329 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 May 82 p 1

['Aziz Diya' article: "An Observer's View"]

[Text] Egypt's return to its fraternal Arab states is undoubtedly a mutual desire. The call for Arab-Egyptian reconciliation has become stronger and more persistent since the enemy's withdrawal from the remaining part of the Sinai. It appears that this matter in fact depended on the completion of this withdrawal, which has confirmed the seriousness of the U.S. commitment to and guarantee of the implementation of the Camp David agreements. The call has been there for some time, but it should have been coupled with a preconceived plan to be implemented by the Arab states as soon as the withdrawal was completed. The Arab divisions and the deteriorating inter-Arab relations have so far prevented the implementation of such a plan, if indeed there was one.

It can be said that most Arab leaders who might acknowledge the need for Egypt's return to its Arab brothers are reluctant to take the first step because of their fear of the unknown and of the possible reaction of the other leaders who are still adamantly against Egypt's return because they reject the Camp David agreements.

The leaders are not unaware that it is impossible for Egypt to shun its commitment to the Camp David agreements under any circumstances. They also know that Egypt has never been any less eager to restore its normal relations with its Arab brothers.

This is the real problem, which is so difficult that it could remain unsolved, simply leaving the continuation of Arab fragmentation and bad relations. It is obvious that the enemy is the only side that stands to benefit from this state of affairs, which renders it more capable of imposing its will, resorting to gangsterism in southern Lebanon and flouting international law and tradition and all the UN resolutions, which are still piling up. The enemy has shown no regard for these resolutions and, consequently, may well announce the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. After all, the enemy has already declared unified Jerusalem the capital of Israel and has annexed the Golan Heights.

True, the Camp David agreements have imposed peace between Egypt and Israel, and therefore Egypt cannot go back on its commitments under these agreements by joining its Arab brothers in any armed conflict with the enemy in southern Lebanon or anywhere else. It is equally true, however, that Egypt could exert more pressure when it comes to the issue or cause of a comprehensive and just peace, within the framework of the principles and concepts outlined in the two agreements, if it can be sure of the support of some or all of its Arab brothers.

Egypt's recognition of Israel, the exchange of diplomatic representation between them, and even the normalization of relations between them in one way or another are all realities which Egypt cannot possibly abandon. Therefore, to ask Egypt to do so as a price for the restoration of relations with some or all Arabs is to ensure the continuation of the break in relations, which is of course inconceivable and unacceptable, as we face the numerous and serious changes that have affected the Arab arena and the central cause in the Middle East, namely the cause of the occupied territory and the Palestinian people. These changes make it necessary for all the Arab states to take a unified and firm stand. Such a stand would undoubtedly lack an important element of strength and international weight if Egypt remained out of it.

Therefore, Egypt's return to the Arab fold, or vice versa, is a must, and the obstacles standing in the way should be eliminated It goes without saying that we will continue to condemn the Camp David agreements, and we have put it on record that Egypt did commit an unforgivable mistake and that that we irrevocably reject the agreements under any circumstances. We can, however, leave all this to the annals of history and embark on a new method of dealing with a reality which we do not accept. There is no reason why we should not, in parallel, move toward our objective. We have differed with Egypt regarding that objective and regarding what is required, but we may not disagree that the target is a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, which has been witnessing enough changes and challenges to confirm that any war or armed conflict to solve the problem would only further complicate it and create more obstacles; and that would only be advantageous to the enemy, as has been the case over the past three decades.

Naturally, we could ignore the importance and necessity of Egypt's return, and leave things as they are forever, or until the strategic balance which we still hear about and which is regrettably still a far-fetched dream is achieved.

UAE

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL MEETS EPLF CHAIRMAN

GF151516 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 May (WAM) -- UAE Foreign Affairs Ministry Under Secretary Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan today met with Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] Chairman Mr Ramadan Mohamed Nour, who is currently visiting the UAE. The meeting was attended by the EPLF's representative to the Gulf, Mr Osman Mohamed Omar.

During the meeting, they discussed the political and military situation on the Eritrean arena vis-a-vis the latest Ethiopian campaign against the revolution's positions in Eritrea.

Mr Ramadan Mohamed Nour noted the latest Ethiopian campaign failed to strike at the Eritrean revolution due to the stiff resistance it encountered. He warned the Eritrean forces are preparing for a new campaign against the Eritrean revolution, due to the conditions which the Eritrean forces face together with the battles that take place in the Eritrean territories. [as received] Mr 'Abd ar-Rahaman al-Jarwan stressed to the Eritrean official the UAE's support for the Eritrean revolution vis-a-vis the current critical conditions it is passing through.

ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT LEADER VISITS UAE

Meets With 'Ajman Ruler

GF171554 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Shaykh Humayd ibn Rashid an-Nu'aymi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of 'Ajman, received at Az-Zahir Palace today Osman Saleh Sabbe, leader of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces [ELF-PLF], who is currently visiting the country.

Meets With Al-Qasimi

GF181655 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] Ra's al-Khaymah, 18 May (WAKH) -- Shaykh Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah, today received Osman Saleh Sabbe, leader of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces [ELF-PLF], who is currently visiting the UAE.

The meeting was attended by Mohamed Osman (abu Bakr), representative of ELF-PLF in the Gulf region, and Shaykh Khalid ibn Saqr al-Qasimi, heir apparent and deputy ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah.

Praises Gulf Support

GF181750 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1405 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] Ra's al-Khaymah, 18 May (WAM) -- Osman Saleh Sabbe, leader of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces, has praised the support which the UAE and the other Gulf countries provide for the Eritrean revolution.

In a statement to WAM, he noted the Eritrean revolution currently holds contacts with a number of Third World countries and countries from the Eastern and Western blocs in order to inform them about the conditions of the Eritrean people and the massacres to which they are subjected at the hands of the Ethiopian regime.

He pointed out these contacts have had tangible success, particularly with the French Government, which stopped aid to the regime of Haile Mariam and recognized the right of Eritrean people to self-determination. Also the Italian Government promised to adopt a pro-Eritrean revolution policy.

He stressed the Eritrean revolution's keeness to have the socialist countries participate in finding a just solution for the Eritrean issue. He pointed out Syria and the PLO contact these countries, particularly the Soviet Union, in order to achieve this goal. Mr Sabbe pointed out he plans to visit the PRC in order to hold talks aimed at gaining its support and recognition of the Eritrean revolution.

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE'S JERUSALEM MEETING SCORED

GF190557 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 May (WAM) -- The UAE has denounced the meetings of the European Parliament's Political Committee which begin today in Jerusalem.

Mr Muhammad Jasim Samhan, the plenipotentiary minister at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, today expressed to the Belgian ambassador to the UAE, Jacques Houard, the UAE's denunciation of this meeting in occupied Jerusalem. He added this measure indicates support and backing for the Zionist's enemy's violation of the Palestinian and Islamic peoples' rights by the European countries.

Mr Samhan told the Belgian ambassador that besides being in violation of the resolutions of the United Nations and its subcommittees, the holding of this meeting in occupied Jerusalem is regarded as a challenge to the feelings of the Arab and Islamic nations. He added this meeting also signifies support for the Israeli decision that regards Jerusalem as its capital, and is an endorsement of Israel's expansionist policy and its violations in the occupied Arab territories.

Mr Samhan demanded that the European countries adopt a serious position on the Palestinian issue and stressed the need to grant the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their soil. He pointed out that he conveyed this position to the Belgian ambassador because Belgium is the current chairman of the EEC.

PRESS DENOUNCES ISRAELI-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS

GF181157 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 May 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 18 May (WAM) -- Three local newspapers call for strong Arab action to confront the Israeli diplomatic march toward the African Continent and to react to the decision of the Zairian Government on the restoration of relations with the Zionist enemy -- the decision which did not rule out Zaire's establishing its embassy in occupied Jerusalem. The newspapers warned of the possibility of other countries pursuing Zaire's policy in the absence of Arab efficacy and amid schism which means the Arab response is weak and disunited.

AL-ITTIHAD maintains the Arab boycott is not the proper step to confront this case. "The useful thing in this phase is to confront the Israeli march toward the African Continent and take prompt initiatives to strengthen African-Arab relations in order to guarantee African support."

AL-FAJR calls on Arabs to reconsider and "find the gaps through which the Zionist enemy approaches the black continent and also try to fill these gaps promptly." The newspaper explains that the Zairian decision did not come out of nowhere: "it was made after intensive contacts and on Israeli diplomatic invasion of the black continent by senior enemy leaders with the aim of breaking through the Arab boycott of Israel which began on a large scale in 1973."

AL-WAHDAH says the Zionist enemy is acting to convince the countries which stand with the Arabs that the state of war between the Arabs and Zionists is over, that Israel has given the Arabs their rights through its withdrawal from the Sinai and that there is no reason for these countries to boycott Israel any longer. The newspaper calls for prompt, intensive diplomatic Arab action to show the world that the Arab-Israeli conflict is not over with the Sinai's return to Egypt.

AL-KHALIJ ON U.S. 'MILITARY DETERRENT'

GF181840 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 18 May 82 p 1

[Editorial: "The United States Declares the 'Deterrent' Policy in the Gulf"]

[Text] The deterioration of the security situation in the Arab Gulf region during the past 2 years gave the United States a big opportunity for interference in the internal affairs of the region's countries. The officials in Washington did not hide their aggressive intentions against all the region's countries, even when they were in the form of military interference under the pretext of preserving the oil fields and the flow of oil to the industrial world. These intentions were further unveiled in the deliberations which Congress held last week to discuss the Iraqi-Iranian war. Nicholas Veliotes, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, noted "the most important factor in the U.S. policy toward the Gulf region is the military deterrent, and if we consider anything like this, then we have to carry it out by means of a constitutional action through the Congress."

The U.S. policy of "military deterrent" in the Gulf which Veliotes stressed relates not only to the Iraqi-Iranian war, but extends to any problem, any situation between two countries in the region, or any situation which the United States views as posing a threat to their "national" interests. They may view any Gulf initiative to end the war as posing a threat to their interests. They may also view any unanimous Gulf position, or a position by any one country, against Israel as posing a threat to their interests. They may also view any Gulf call for establishing equal relations with the international blocs as reflecting the same results.

What draws attention is that Veliotes associated the U.S. "deterrent policy" with the security and stability of Israel during the Congressional debate. This gives credibility to what we referred to, that Washington will regard any Gulf step in the direction of preserving Gulf security as a violation of U.S. interests in the region and subjecting Israel's security to instability. On the other hand, this implies that the ones who benefit from causing the security situation in the Gulf to deteriorate are the United States and Israel.

All these dangers make it necessary for all the Gulf countries to end the current "disunity to unifiy positions with the aim of ending the U.S.-Israeli threats that endanger all the Gulf countries. These threats make it necessary for the foreign countries which express adherence to the Arabs' friendship to move in the direction of aiding the Gulf countries and the Arabs in defending their national security, according to the principles of joint struggle against imperialism and foreign hegemony.

The "military deterrent" in the Gulf, which the United States is currently talking about, is the policy of "military deterrent" which Israel undertakes on behalf of the United States in Lebanon against the Palestinian revolution and the Arab Lebanese people. The Arabs are requested not to shift this situation to another Arab area. The Arabs' friends are requested to grant aid in order to stop U.S.-Israeli military haughtiness in the Arab world.

U.S. MILITARY NETWORK AROUND GULF DENOUNCED

GF201059 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 19 May 82 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] In his latest press statements, the U.S. President revealed that he reiterated to Israel's Prime Minister Menahem Begin the U.S. Government's determination not to let the Arabs become superior to Israel.

A few days later, the U.S. Government competed with other Western countries in welcoming resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and Zaire. Then as arguments continue between Cairo and Tel Aviv over the issue of "Tabah" and the place for holding the "autonomy" talks, Reagan asserts that he sees no prospects for peace in the Middle East, unless it is based on something exactly identical to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

In the U.S. Congress, it was reported there have been final evaluations of a number of powers and regimes which the United States want to come back to the "fold" because of the current situation in the Middle East and the increasing tension in the Arab Gulf region as a result of the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war. Referring to Turkey, Reagan noted he looks forward to having U.S.-Turkish relations restored to the way they were in the "fifties," while it was announced in Washington that arrangements were underway to appoint U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis as U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs to succeed Veliotes, who will be appointed U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

This U.S. activity indicates efforts in the direction of building up a network of "military" relations that cover the Mediterranean and key positions in the Middle East in addition to Israel, the Arab Gulf region -- where the buildup of the Rapid Deployment Force has been completed -- and the basin of the Indian Ocean, where the United States concentrates on Pakistan. This shows that the United States is completing the encirclement of the Arab homeland with the bases of the Rapid Deployment Force, in addition to the bases of NATO and U.S. relations with a number of the countries through military "facilities" or agreements on "strategic understanding" which is achieved at a standard less than the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance.

The United States is concentrating nowadays on the Arab Gulf region. They are exploiting the exploding and deteriorating security situation in order to complete the strengthening the "fragile regions" directly or through alternate means and push the region to the brink of abyss of continuously talking about the importance of preserving the flow of oil to the industrial world.

The crux of these activities -- as Reagan and his top aides assert -- is the continuation of the Western interests in the Gulf and the preservation of Israel's security with all its implications of U.S. threats against the world's countries should they approve a resolution that denounces Israel. This has also resulted in the reintroduction of Israel into Africa, and Costa Rica's moving its embassy to occupied Jerusalem in disagreement with Arab and Islamic public opinion.

If Arab disunity continues, the United States will be able to carry out more aggressive plans toward the Arabs. The security deterioration in the Arab Gulf region -- in presence of the Iraqi-Iranian war or in the event of an emergency development -- is the factor that makes the United States behave toward this region as if it were a U.S. district.

This regrettable situation must have an antithesis. This antithesis can be found within the Arab people. But who pays attention to the people?

PDRY

PFLP OFFICIAL MEETS 'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD

EA172028 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Today Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad met Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the PFLP Central Committee at the Central Committee Secretariat. During the meeting the secretary general was briefed on the latest developments in the Arab and Lebanese arenas and on the situation in the Middle East. Brother Bassam Abu Sharif explained the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the development of their struggle in light of continuing opposition to the Zionist occupation.

They also discussed relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions in general and between the YSP and the PFLP in particular. The secretary general stressed that our country will continue, as in the past, to support the Palestinian revolution and the Arab national liberation movement in their struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction, as well as their nationalist forces in their confrontation with repeated Zionist aggression. He praised the cohesion and [words indistinct] which is becoming stronger daily.

Brother Bassam Abu Sharif (?praised) the consistent, fraternal and principled stand taken by our country on the side of the Palestinian Arab people and its revolution. He expressed his satisfaction with the development of militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and between the YSP and the PFLP.

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD RECEIVES PFLO DELEGATION

LD181730 Aden ANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] Aden, 18 May (ANA) -- 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, head of state, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister, today received at his office at the Central Committe Secretariat the delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman headed by member of the front Central Committee Executive Committee Ahmad al-Ghassani. Discussions covered matters of interest to the YSP and the PFLO.

MUBARAK, GOVERNORS ATTEND CABINET MEETING

NC191038 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The Cabinet held a plenary meeting this morning in Al-Qubbah Palace under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The meeting was attended by their excellencies the governors.

The new governors had taken the legal oath before President Husni Mubarak prior to the Cabinet meeting.

Call for Increased Production

NC191723 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] After the expanded meeting of the Cabinet and the governors today, President Husni Mubarak stated that during the meeting he stressed the need to focus on decentralization with regard to the work of the governors and that they should exercise their powers fully and carry out their work in the field. [Mubarak also spoke on] the need to increase agricultural and industrial production and solve the problems of the masses. The president said: We have changed the method; and we shall continue to change the method whenever it becomes necessary.

Ash-Sharif on Meeting

NC191640 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] After the Cabinet meeting today, Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif made a statement. The following is a recording of this statement:

[Begin recording] The Cabinet and the governors met today under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. This meeting took place after the governors, who will shoulder the new responsibility, had taken the legal oath [of office].

At the beginning of the meeting the president spoke about the coming stage and the duties of the government, the ministers and the governors. His excellency said that after the return of Sinai and the liberation of the soil on 25 April, a new stage of national work at home lies ahead of us. The president said that we -- government, governors and people -- must exert every effort because we are embarking on a new stage, and that the contributions and efforts should be made on the right path and on the right course toward accomplishments that will solve our economic and social problems as a state as well as the problems of the masses.

Addressing the governors, the president said they have a big role to play in achieving progress and solving the problems of the masses through their efforts and work while keeping clear of the propaganda method or the traditional method. What is required is silent work and to let the accomplishments to speak for themselves. The citizens' feeling about the accomplishments and service is the best appreciation for the government's honest and true work.

The president said: I have said and I repeat: We must not make statements about projects which are still at the starting stage of under implementation, and this must be clear to you. The president said that the criteria is the public interest and the objective assessment is the basis in the sphere of national work.

Speaking about the coming stage, the president said: I want to emphasize that the achievement of security for the citizen and the homeland and the maintenance of the citizens' security is the basis of national work. The president affirmed that the emergency law will not be used except within the framework of safeguarding the lives of the citizens and the state security.

The president said: I would like to affirm and I would like you to affirm to the citizens everywhere not to be afraid -- we must not be afraid. The people and all the citizens must not be afraid of the application of the emergency laws as long as they are only applied for the good of the citizen and the homeland. And this we are keen about -- that is, that they are for their good and for their security and safety.

The president also said that the wheel will not turn back and the hands of the clock will not turn back. The participation of the generations in shouldering the responsibility together with the new generations is the nature of things, so that experience will spread and merge in every place.

The president also said that in the sphere of national work resistance to extremism is not just a purely security matter but also an ideological and political matter. Therefore, it is the duty of the parties, the institutions, the information media, the individuals and families to play a role in this regard. The governors play a basic role, since they are political officials in their governorates. They must spread and deepen this philosophy.

The president then spoke about the economic conference. His excellency said that the conference produced certain guidelines at the conclusion of its initial sessions. Committees were formed at the instructions of the president to formulate these guidelines into recommendations to deal with the reality of the Egyptian economy. These recommendations will be used by the government in drawing up its new plan for 1982/83 and also to tackle the economic problems during the coming 5-year plan. His excellency said that dealing with the economic problems should be within the 5-year plan and after.

The president explained in this regard that the conference on the future of Egypt has been postponed for some time to provide a chance for a wide-scale participation of all opinions [as heard] and experts from the universities, institutions and the various trends, so that it would reflect the future ideas.

The president said in this regard that in the economic conference we began with the conference and then the committees. However, through this experience gained by his excellency, committees will be formed which will begin preparing careful and broad studies and then, on the basis of the reports by these committees and their conclusions concerning the issues of interest to Egypt and its future, the conference will be convened.

The president said that the aim is not just to convene conferences and make speeches and then come out with no solutions or solutions that cannot be applied. Rather, the aim is to offer useful opinions and experiences related to the Egyptian reality. The aim of the conferences, as the president said, is participation in charting the future and adopting decisions.

The president then spoke about several subjects. He spoke about extravagance and luxuries and avoiding extravagance and luxuries in gatherings and parties on the level of the government, the governorates and the popular level.

The president spoke at length about the need to adhere to the plan, particularly with regard to the governorates. His excellency said that any projects not included in the plan, and without clear financial backing and without feasibility studies that prove their benefit for the Egyptian economy and the people of the area, will have to be [word indistinct]. The adoption of haphazard projects is impermissible and will not be financed, and we must abide by sound scientific planning between the government, governorate and the planning ministry. Any project not included in the plan will not see the light of day as long as there is no indepth scientific study on the feasibility of this project.

The president also spoke about manpower and vocational training. He said that 25 million pounds were allocated in the current budget for raising the standard of Egyptian workers and for vocational training in cooperation with the armed forces. He said that this will take place within the framework of a compehensive plan covering all the governorates and the market requirements of vocationally trained workers.

The president also stressed the importance of controlling the currency and the smuggling of currency with a view to strengthening the Egyptian economy.

The president also spoke about an important subject: The development of Sinai. He said that the development of Sinai should take place within the framework of a clear plan -- a plan for housing, specifications for constructions, and development of building methods on the basis of the experience of specialists. This should take place quickly, but in a scientific manner. Specifications and models for building should be made to preserve the environment and the beauty of the area. We must not destroy the beauty of these tourist areas.

RESIGNATION OF PETROLEUM MINISTER DENIED

NC191733 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA) -- A source in the prime minister's office has denied a report that Deputy Prime Minister for Production and Minister of Petroleum Engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal has submitted his resignation. The report was published today by a party newspaper.

The source said engineer Hilal took leave 2 weeks ago and went abroad for rest and treatment on the advice of his doctors. His health condition requires him to rest and take treatment periodically.

The source said Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din contacted engineer Hilal more than once during these 2 weeks to inquire about his health.

'ALI INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST ISSUES, U.S.

PM190845 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 May 82 p 3

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT correspondent interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hasan Kamal 'Ali in Cairo -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] With regard to Egypt's Arab relations, what results are expected from the attempts at rapprochement between Egypt and the Arabs, particularly the Gulf states?

[Answer] Egypt is an Arab state and it is therefore natural that relations with the Arabs should be normal. Anything to the contrary is unlikely. I would expect Arab solidarity to be restored one day, but the timing depends primarily on the desire of any Arab state for cooperation with Egypt, cooperation to which Egypt has not closed the door. Therefore, it is only a matter of time.

[Question] It is possible as an interim step that Egypt will return to the Arab countries through [the resumption of] bilateral relations at the beginning to be followed later by collective return to relations?

[Answer] Both a bilateral and a collective return to relations are likely: It depends on the attitude taken by any state individually or all the Arab states collectively.

[Question] Western quarters particularly concentrate on Egypt's relations with the Gulf states. Is there some kind of mediation currently being carried out by Oman or any other Arab country?

[Answer] There is a readiness on the part of certain Arab countries, like Oman, to carry out mediation. Sudan is also ready to do the same, Sudan being the leader of the group of Arab countries comprising the Arab solidarity committee set up by the Tunis Arab League. This, of course, underlines the role Oman and Sudan are playing in restoring solidarity between Egypt and the other Arab countries.

[Question] It is said that Israel will be lying in wait for you if you go back to the Arabs because it is anxious to hinder such a return.

[Answer] First, I would say that there is nothing to lie in wait for. Israel is quite sure that we are an Arab state and that the restoration of Arab solidarity is not going to be at the expense of the peace treaty and Egyptian-Israeli relations. This fact is clear to Israel and there is no room for doubt.

[Question] In the course of pursuing a foreign policy compatible with Egypt's real stature in the area, how would you reconcile your Arab relations and relations with Israel, given the fact that you are the only Arab state that has a peace treaty with Israel?

[Answer] On several occasions Egypt adhered to its principled stand despite the fact that its territory was still occupied. This was evident in our attitude to the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the Israeli actions in the West Bank, the question of settlements and our efforts to stop attacks on Lebanon during the past 3 years. All these were effective stands. Therefore, Egypt's position on Arab issues of destiny is clear and frank. There is therefore no comparison between our relations with Israel and relations with the Arab countries. Egypt can easily reconcile Egyptian-Israeli relations and Egyptian-Arab relations as long as this is clear and understood by the other Arab countries.

[Question] But won't there be considerable difficulty in reconciling Egyptian-Israeli relations and Egyptian-Arab relations, particularly in the event of crises in which Egypt has to bring pressures to bear on Israel such as it has not brought before?

[Answer] In fact, Egypt has two stands: The first is Egypt's stand on any Israeli actions that might be condemned by the international community as in the case of our stand on the question of Jerusalem. This stand was clear and firm despite the Israeli occupation of our territories. So was our stand on the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

The second was expressed by President Mubarak and President as-Sadat -- that Egypt will not be dragged into a war that might break out between Israel and its neighbors on the grounds that Egypt wants peace and encourages the trend toward peace and not war.

[Question] Even if Israel were the aggressor?

[Answer] This is a subject that can be discussed when it arises and there is no need now to presume hypothetical situations.

[Question] It is said that Egypt is seeking to resume relations with Baghdad before the nonaligned summit is held in September.

[Answer] We have already declared our intention to attend the nonaligned conference. If it is held in Baghdad or in any other Arab country there is no doubt that Egypt, being a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement, will attend it regardless of Egyptian-Iraqi relations.

[Question] What is Egypt's view from the standpoint of its strategic security in relation to the security of the Gulf States?

[Answer] First we must point to the fact that in every situation that has developed in the Middle East Egypt has adopted an honorable stand. This has been manifest in many fateful issues involving Egypt and the Arab world. This was evident in Egypt's attitude toward Kuwait when its independence was threatened by actions in neighboring countries. It was clear when Egypt supplied Iraq with ammunition during its present war with Iran. Egypt has always honored its national and pan-Arab obligation. Egypt looks upon the Gulf states as its first strategic line of defense. We adopted a clear stand when the Soviets occupied Afghanistan, which borders on this area. Our stand at that time was clear and strong because the security of these states is regarded as Egypt's security. Anything affecting their borders affects us in Egypt.

[Question] Is it possible that Egypt will agree with the Arabs on a new alliance, especially since the Gulf countries fear that security of the area could be undermined by Iran and by the new developments in the Iraq-Iran war?

[Answer] The Arab collective security pact existed until polarization between the Arab countries developed. We find in the Iraq-Iran war, for example, Arab countries supporting Iran and others supporting Iraq. Then we have seen alliances between Arab countries against other Arab countries. The existing polarization must first be removed before the Arab countries can establish this kind of alliance.

[Question] What would happen if you were invited to attend an Arab summit in Tunis? Would Egypt refuse?

[Answer] There are things in Egyptian-Arab relations that must be clarified. Also in the midst of the present polarization we cannot be expected to attend meetings in which altercations will once again be resumed in the Arab League in Tunis. There is also the question of the Baghdad summit resolutions [boycotting Egypt] and the Arab attitudes toward Egypt in the international organizations. All these must be removed before any further steps are taken because if a meeting takes place under such circumstances it will lead to nothing.

[Question] Will Egypt play a mediating role between Israel and the Arab countries in order to bring views closer?

[Answer] Egypt will not play any mediating role. But Egypt, because of its relations with the Arab countries and Israel, can play the role of full partner after a solution is reached. It is then that the role of full partner comes in.

[Question] It is said that the United States cannot be convinced of the Arab right unless a unified Arab stand is adopted. Could the Arabs speak with one voice in dealing with the United States and will Egypt be willing to join in in order to obtain a clear and open U.S. policy in the area?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the United States has tried in past years to bolster peace in the area and to find means to maintain it. This was quite evident in Camp David and in the implementation of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. We do not deny the U.S. attitude toward the implementation of the second part of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty concerning withdrawal. Also we cannot forget that the United States together with Saudi Arabia influenced the cease-fire in Lebanon. This is a well-known stand. Therefore, we can see that there are continuing U.S. efforts to maintain security and stability in the area.

On the other hand, there is U.S. support for the area. Despite the area's rejection of the existence of U.S. bases, the United States did not resort to force as a means to obtain such bases, as the Soviet Union did in Afghanistan.

Therefore, the U.S. stand cannot be compared with that of the Soviet Union. There can be no Arab consensus against the United States. But Arab consensus here must coordinate with the United States in order to reach a just solution for the Palestinian problem. This is what we believe should be the first step in solving the problem through full autonomy for the Palestinians.

[Question] The Gulf states insist on refusing to give bases to the United States on the grounds of keeping the Arab area away from foreign influence and conflict between the major powers. Do you agree with this line?

[Answer] We give the United States facilities and if these states give stimilar facilities to the United States then it can help and assist them. But at present we agree with the Gulf states that giving bases to a superpower would tempt the other side to obtain similar bases, despite the fact that Soviet presence in Afghanistan involves dangers to the area, because it would constitute an international imbalance in the area. We believe that facilities are the maximum we can give to the United States to maintain this balance.

MOROCCO EXTENDS INVITATION TO CONFERENCE

NC202245 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 20 May 82

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 May (MENA) -- AL-AHRAM reports in Friday's issue that Morocco has invited Egypt to take part in the Arab cooperatives conference that will be held in Rabat on 30 May, and in which all Arab states will take part.

SUDANESE INTERIOR MINISTER ARRIVES 17 MAY

NC172226 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA) -- Sudanese Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman Muhammad arrived in Cairo tonight for a 10-day official visit to Egypt in response to an invitation from Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha.

In an arrival statement, the Sudanese minister of interior expressed his happiness at visiting Egypt. He said that this visit is taking place at the time when Egypt has regained a dear part of its soil and, through it, achieved a victory not only for Egypt but also for all the Arabs.

Hasan Abu Basha, who received the Sudanese official, affirmed that the visit would be productive in coordinating cooperation in all spheres of security and reaching results that affirmed the ties and the joint interests of the two peoples.

MENA has learned that the talks the Sudanese guest will hold will aim at strengthening Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation in all spheres of security within the framework of the policy of integration between the two countries.

AFRICAN MILITARY SEMINAR ENDS IN CAIRO 20 MAY

NC202121 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lt Gen 'Abd Rab an-Nabi Hafiz has affirmed that the African Continent is in dire need of a unified military strategy to tackle all the problems threatening African security. He said that Egypt will not hesitate to extend all the expertise it has to the African states out of its belief that the security and safety of Africa is part of Egypt's own security and safety.

Addressing the closing session of the second African military seminar today, the chief of staff added that with this African spirit, which became evident in the work of the seminar, we shall all work to strengthen the national security of the continent's states to safeguard stability and security in them.

At the conclusion of its meetings in Cairo, the seminar recommended the setting up of a permanent military body to be affiliated with the General Secretariat of the OAU to specialize in making preparations for the meetings of the OAU Defense Committee and to organize scientific military seminars with the aim of bridging the gape in African strategic concepts.

The seminar also recommended the adoption of all the necessary measures to ensure the declaration of Africa as a nuclear-free zone.

Regarding the formation of an African peacekeeping force, the delegations taking part in the seminar supported the efforts being made within the framework of the OAU to establish an African peacekeeping force attached to the organization, excluding the participation of any elements from outside the African Continent.

U.S., ARAB ROLES IN PEACE PROCESS VIEWED

NC141549 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 May 82

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary: "A Role That Should Not Stay Away From the Mideast Conflict Arena"]

[Text] U.S. Envoy Richard Fairbanks' talks in Cairo and Israel are linked with two matters:

1. The present freeze in the Palestinian autonomy negotiations affirms the need for activating the U.S. role to eliminate the difficulties created by Israel in the face of negotiations.

2. The success of the first part of Camp David with the completion of the withdrawal from Sinai provides the suitable climate for attempting to achieve progress in the peace process.

It is clear that the U.S. role is a basic one in giving momentum to the peace efforts toward achieving a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. However, no one can claim that the United States alone is capable of carrying out this role without including the efforts of the owners of the cause.

Egypt has realized this fact since the beginning, and has been eager about the United States assuming its full responsibility in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict as a fully responsible partner. The effectiveness of this role and its influence on the Israeli hardline stances has been confirmed in the stages of negotiations or in implementing the Camp David accords.

When Egypt signed the Camp David accords it knew that it started a battle for peace that is no less ferocious than that of war. However, Egypt believed that the great difficulties it would possibly face in this battle would come from Israel, represented in the obstacles it would raise in the way of negotiations, not from its fraternal Arab countries which have not only left Egypt alone in the arena but also levelled charges against it while Egypt had been defending their rights and questions. Nevertheless, Egypt has not neglected for a moment the importance of the solidarity of the Arab stand in a comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Egypt has not evaded its leading responsibility in this role in spite of the Arabs' absence, which allowed Israel to attempt to evade its commitments related to the comprehensive solution of the conflict. Israel is still using such an absence as a justification in its oppressive practices against the Arabs on the pretext that it is facing dangers represented in their rejection of peace.

If the Arab differences, which existed before Camp David, have been the cause for lack of Arab unanimity in making any decision in favor of the Arabs, in our opinion the time has come to contain the differences in the Arab views on how to settle the conflict.

If the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai affirms that the Camp David accords are as a whole suitable for application, provided that Israel honestly commits itself to all its provisions, and if it has been established that there has been no practical alternative so far to Camp David that Israel could agree to, we believe that our Arab brothers should work with Egypt to impel Israel to abide by its pledges in relation to part two of the Camp David accords concerning a comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the acknowledgement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

We believe that the defect is not in the Camp David accords, but rather in the lack of the necessary thrust to implement the accords. We believe that the Arab role in this respect can, to great extent, be positive and fruitful, and that this role should not remain outside of the arena of conflict.

IBRAHIM DISCUSSES EGYPTIAN WAR INDUSTRY

NC200923 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA) -- Minister of State for War Production engineer Jamal ad-Din as-Sayyid Ibrahim has said: The Egyptian war production has witnessed great progress in the past few years as a result of the diversification of sources of arms and we are now able to introduce new industries and technology.

He said that what contributed to this progress is the confidence the friendly and fraternal states have in the quality of our war industry products, particularly as ours are the sole source of some war products, for these states.

In an interview published in AL-AHRAM today, Ibrahim said that out of the principle that there is no peace for anyone without a deterrent force to protect him, the mission of the arms industry in Egypt becomes more important and difficult as the war production industry would be responsible for grasping the opportunity for peace by developing arms and their replenishment, by replacement, renovation and rationalized production. He said that since 1964 Egypt has been able to produce modern commodities which has contributed extensively to the balance of payments.

Ibrahim said: We are about to complete the establishment of two huge modern projects for production of arms and heavy equipment and for the production of jetting substance [al-mawad al-qadhifah] and rocket engines. He said that some of these engines and the first samples of field and antiaircraft guns are now in production.

Noting the visit of Minister of Defense and War Production Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah to some Western countries, Ibrahim said that the visits created an atmosphere of confidence and fully welcomed joint production and industrialization.

He said that Egypt has been able to meet all ammunition requirements for its armed forces and that we are now completely self-reliant. We have also been able to produce for export to friendly states.

He said that considerable progress has been achieved in the electronics industry in the last 2 years in accordance with the highest standards of advanced technology in respect of radio communication sets and electronic converters. He noted that talks are currently being held to manufacture electronic equipment for aircraft and radar during the next few years.

ARABS URGED TO 'FIRMLY CONFRONT' ZAIRE, COSTA RICA

JN191219 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 May 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 May (INA) -- Iraq has urged Arab countries to firmly confront Costa Rica's decision to transfer its embassy to occupied Jerusalem and that of Zaire to restore relations with the Zionist entity.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin told the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Baghdad today that the Arab countries, each according to its capabilities, should not be lenient vis-a-vis these two hostile decisions in order to prevent others from following suit.

TARIQ 'AZIZ RETURNS TO BAGHDAD FROM ARAB TOUR

JN191029 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 May 82

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 19 May (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad this afternoon at the end of a tour that took him to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the YAR and Kuwait.

In a predeparture statement to the INA Kuwait correspondent, 'Aziz said he has handed a message to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah from his brother President Saddam Husayn containing an invitation to attend the seventh nonaligned summit conference, scheduled to be held in Baghdad next September.

The Iraqi envoy added that during the meeting in which the spirit of brotherhood and profound understanding prevailed, viewpoints were exchanged regarding bilateral relations, the current Arab situation and the dangers threatening the Arab nation at the current stage. He pointed out the talks touched on the contacts being made by Arab leaders to confront these dangers.

LE MONDE REPORTS INCREASING KURDISTAN UNREST

PM190959 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 May 82 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[Text] According to reports reaching Paris, disturbances have broken out in Iraqi Kurdistan over the past 3 weeks or so. In Qal'at Dizah on 24 April the security forces opened fire on a procession of several thousand people who were planning to commemorate the massacre perpetrated in the same city in 1974. Indeed 8 years ago the Iraqi Air Force had bombed the city, killing around 100 people and injuring 200 others. During the 24 April demonstration, nine people including two women -- (Sonabar Mahmoub) and (Amina Sour) -- were shot by the security forces.

From the following day strikes and demonstrations were staged in increasing numbers in several cities in Kurdistan, especially Halbjah, Panjwin, Raniyah, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk and, apparently, Mossoul, -- where the troubles began last January -- the forces of repression killed at least four of the pupiles at the Al-Watan secondary school (on 28 April) and three more in Koi Sanjaq (on 2 May). In Irbil the authorities tried to intimidate the demonstrators by executing two of them in a public square in the city the clandestine radio Voice of the Iraqi Revolution -- which is run by Mr Jalal Talabani's Kurdish Patriotic Union -- is still calling on the Arab and Kurdish population to stage a general uprising.

Since the start of the Iraqi-Iranian war the Baghdad security forces -- most of whom have been transferred to the front -- have had difficulty in controlling the situation in Kurdistan; special Jordanian units have been helping them but in vain.

Despite the curfew imposed in some cities at sunset, the guerrillas belonging to various Kurdish organizations are making an increasing number of attacks. A double phenomenon has been highlighted since the latest military setbacks on the front: on the one hand the relaxation of the vigilance of the security services which are agreeing to make tacit compromises with the Kurdish rebels in order to make provision for the future and on the other hand the growing audacity of the population which no longer seems to fear the Ba'thist regime's wrath.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 717

JN201632 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 82

[Communique No 717 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 May 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the help of Almighty God, the soldiers of justice and principles continued their gallant fighting against the spiteful Khomeyni clique, confirming their capability of offering sacrifices and martyrs in defense of their land, dignity and security until the aggressive enemy returns to its senses, gives up its evil designs and aggression and recognizes our legitimate rights. The following is the outcome of armed forces' activities last night and today:

1. Known enemy losses as a result of our units' offensive north of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] yesterday morning were as follows: 658 were killed and 18 tanks; 4 armored personnel carriers; 3 guns; 12 vehicles, 3 carrying soldiers and 4 others towing 106-mm guns; 5 rocket launchers; 1 tubular launcher; 3 observation posts; and 4 stockpiles of hardware were destroyed.

2. Our forward units pounded enemy positions and concentrations north of Al-Muhammarah, killing 17 and destroying 4 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers and 2 vehicles.

3. Seven were killed and one tank and one armored personnel carrier were destroyed in (Jananah).

4. Three were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 685 killed and 23 tanks; 8 armored personnel carriers; 3 guns; 14 vehicles, 3 carrying soldiers and 4 others towing 106-mm guns; 5 rocket launcher; 1 tubular launcher; 3 observation posts; and 4 stockpiles of hardware destroyed.

5. Our sacrifices: 39 martyrs and 7 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers and 4 vehicles damaged. These include our sacrifices in our units' offensive yesterday morning.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 May 1982

HUSAYN REPORTEDLY TO VISIT USSR IN JUNE

JN201801 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] It has been learned from informed sources in Amman that King Husayn will visit the USSR next month. The last visit by the Jordanian monarch to the USSR was on 25 May 1981.

Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu is also expected to visit Amman early next month.

AD-DUSTUR SCORES TIMING OF SHARON U.S. VISIT

JN210844 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 May 82

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Sharon in Washington," AD-DUSTUR says: Today, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon begins his oft-postponed Washington visit at a time when the possibilities of an explosion in the region are increasing due to Israel's continued threats against southern Lebanon and its repressive measures in the occupied territories. The autonomy negotiations are also facing new obstacles due to Egyptian-Israeli differences over the concept on the one hand, and Israel's insistence on holding the negotiations in Jerusalem on the other.

While it seems obvious that Sharon will try to avoid discussing this subject in order to give Israel a free hand to deal with without consulting Washington, the main aim of his visit and talks with U.S. officials is to continue pressure for achieving strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States as a means of further tying U.S. policy in the Middle East to Israeli policy. Washington seems to be showing a response in this direction. Proof is that it was Washington which proposed reactivating the strategic cooperation agreement between the two countries just a few days ago.

AD-DUSTUR adds: This U.S. proposal raises a question: Why does Washington insist on reactivating the strategic cooperation with Israel at this particular time, when the reason which made Washington suspend the memorandum of understanding in the first place, namely, the annexation of the Golan, is still valid? Israel has not backed down on its decision so as to allow Washington to lift its suspension.

If the United States thinks that strategic cooperation with Israel will permit it to control the aggressive Israeli policy, clear evidence proves otherwise and also shows Israel will take advantage of this cooperation to continue its attacks and expansionist and colonialist policy in the occupied territory, as well as continue building its military power to threaten neighboring Arab states.

TERMS FOR EGYPT'S RETURN BEING DRAFTED

JN201730 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] We have received a report from Amman that Jordan is currently working in coordination with some moderate Arab states on drafting a joint document defining the basic principles to which Egypt should be committed in order to restore it to the Arab fold.

It seems this document does not include conditions for Egypt's return but political and military resolutions that would constitute a minimum requirement before any Arab-Egyptian meeting.

AR-RA'Y RAPS COUNCIL OF EUROPE, STAND ON ZAIRE

JN191209 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Question Waiting for an Answer," AR-RA'Y says: It seems that Arab objections, calls and protests over the meeting of the Political Committee of the European Parliament in occupied Jerusalem have all gone in vain because the committee has begun its meetings in the occupied holy city, in the Israeli Knesset, flouting the Arab stand which did not go beyond objection, protest, denunciation and condemnation.

Although some European states, which are members of the committee, have boycotted this meeting -- namely, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Denmark, with France having made reservations about the meeting and confining participation to a representative in the committee -- and although the participants in the meetings have lessened its importance on the political level, Israel's success in holding this meeting in occupied Jerusalem is significant, especially under the difficult circumstances prevailing in the Arab homeland.

A few days ago, the Israeli infiltration into Africa began, encouraged by Zaire's announcement on restoring relations with the Zionist entity. We do not exclude the possibility that others might follow suit although this completely contradicts the Arab-African summit's declaration in Cairo in March 1979 and despite the Zionist entity's continued expansionist policy inside the occupied Arab territories.

AR-RA'Y adds: We don't exclude the possibility that the Arab-African front's relations will continue to collapse if the Arabs do not adopt a firm stand against any state which restores relations with the Zionist entity. Perhaps a complete Arab boycott of Zaire, and any African state which restore its relations with the Zionist entity, is the right first step in this direction, but it is not enough to stop this collapse in Arab-African relations which serves Israel's interests. We can serve the African states within the framework of the current international policy which is governed by interests and not by emotions.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The following question is posed: Why isn't this firm stand applied to European states and other non-European ones which have diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity and recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This question awaits an answer from Arab capitals as well as from the Arab League.

HIGHER COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETS IN DAMASCUS

NC210808 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] The situation in the city of Sidon is normal and efforts are continuing to eliminate the aftermath of the recent incidents. After its meeting yesterday, the Higher Coordination Committee left for Damascus and held a meeting in the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

The meeting was attended by Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, [Fatah Central Committee member and head of the PLO Political Department] Faruq Qaddumi, [PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, [Lebanese Communist Action Organization Secretary General] Muhsin Ibrahim, [leader of the Syrian Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon] 'Asim Qansu, [Amal movement Command Council Chairman] Nabih Birri, Zakariyah Hamzah, and [chief of the Arab Deterrent Forces intelligence in Lebanon] Col Muhammad Ghanim. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the current situation in Lebanon and the basis for consolidating the tripartite Syrian-Palestinian-National Lebanese alliance.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT

JN201557 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today attended a meeting in the Lebanese National Movement Political Council regional headquarters in Sidon. The meeting, which began at 1:30 this afternoon, was attended by the executive secretary general of the National Movement, Muhsin Ibrahim, and members of the joint command of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement. The meeting was held to follow up the decisions taken to put an end to recent clashes in Sidon and the communique soon to be issued concerning the results of the meeting. Lebanese newspapers reported from Sidon that the situation had returned to normal there and that businesses and schools were due to reopen today.

VOL ON REASONS FOR SYRIAN-PLO 'DIFFERENCES'

NC201644 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] It has transpired that one of the reasons for the unspoken differences between the Syrians and the Palestinians is the fact that a person called Nimr Salih has been barred by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from the meetings of the Central Committee because Nimr has been suspected of leaking sensitive [daqiqah] information to Syria about these meetings.

Another reason is attributed to the charge directed at Abu Jihad within the PLO -- a charge of funding the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria. Abu Jihad is the chairman of the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee.

Consequently, Mustafa Dhib Khalil, alias Abu Ta'a'n, the commander of the armed struggle, is wanted by the Syrian side. Khalil is now in India.

U.S. HAS DIFFERENT NOTION OF CEASE-FIRE

NC201318 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] The envoy of the U.S. State Department, Mr Morris Draper, arrived today in Beirut against a background of a major difference in Lebanese and U.S. trends -- a difference revealed by statements and news reports.

The various Lebanese quarters are contemplating some kind of initiative to help Lebanon out of the status quo produced by the events of 1975. Meanwhile, news reports received simultaneously with Draper's arrival stress that Washington wants to ensure the continuation of the cease-fire. However, it ' s become common knowledge that Lebanon views the cease-fire as producing the correct implementation of the [UN] Security Council resolution -- an implementation which will provide scope for the state to impose an effective authority on the south.

SIDON RESPONDS TO JOINT COMMAND STRIKE CALL

NC181121 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] Sidon, the capital of southern Lebanon, today responded to the call of the joint command of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian revolution in the south to observe today, Tuesday, as a national day of mourning and to close all businesses and participate in the funeral of Martyr Rafiq Bashashah, member of the General Secretariat of the Nasirite popular organization.

The joint command has issued a political statement calling for vigilance in confronting all forms of political and security violations. The joint command decided to withdraw the armed men from Sidon city center, eliminate all armed manifestations and to arrest all those who disguise themselves behind the banner of the Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian revolution to distort the purpose of carrying the rifle. The statement calls for compensating those who sustained losses and for implementing these measures through a joint force which will supervise the city's security and check violations.

More on Strike

NC182225 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] The strike in the city of Sidon continued for the second successive day today in denunciation of the bloody incidents which have taken place there. The city today refused to bury Rafiq Bashashah unless his murderers and aggressors are arrested. Meanwhile, the Palestinian resistance has rejected the Sidon people's request to execute the accused in accordance with a field court judgment, regarding this as constituting pressure.

In the city, the roads were blocked, economic activities were stopped and the roads remained empty for some time. The damage caused to buildings and property as a result of the shelling of the city has been estimated at 150 million pounds.

A delegation of Sidon ulema today met with Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid and informed him of the destruction and murder that have taken place.

OFFICIAL STAND ON SIDON INCIDENTS CRITICIZED

NC191238 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] A spokesman of the people's committees and leagues group in Lebanon has said: The quick move by some departments of the Lebanese authority to exploit the events in Sidon, and their declaration that the state alone is authorized to carry out the necessary investigation and trial, reveals the size of the big plot they want to implement by exploiting the security incidents in our area. It also exposes the extent of the involvement of some departments of the same authority in exaggerating these incidents.

COURT ORDERS ARREST OF ARMY CONVOY ASSAILANTS

NC201634 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Sidon's markets and establishments have resumed their activities with guarded caution. The government commissioner for the military court, Shaykh As'ad Jarmanus, went to the Sidon government house before noon today and held a series of investigations with the relevant judicial and legal quarters. In light of the results [of the investigations] he has issued warrants for the arrest of the perpetrators of the criminal attack launched against the Lebanese Army convoy on the Ar-Rumaylah road, for the arrest of the participants in the assassination of compatriot Rafiq Bashashah and for the arrest of the saboteurs responsible for the recent subversive acts. The arrest warrants have been issued on the understanding that all the persons involved will be court-martialed.

Jarmanus has stressed that it is imperative that the judiciary measures be implemented as soon as possible.

SIDON PROBLEM SAID TO BE CONTAINED 20 MAY

JN201952 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1835 GMT 20 May 82

[Radio correspondent dispatch from southern Lebanon]

[Excerpts] Brothers: Greetings, I am talking to you from the headquarters of the joint forces of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in southern Lebanon: The joint forces have succeeded in containing the local events that recently took place in Sidon. Life returned to normal in the southern capital today.

At 1130 today, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Muhsin Ibrahim, the executive secretary general of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, arrived at joint forces headquarters. Immediately upon their arrival, they met with the joint forces command in southern Lebanon. Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed the brothers on the general situation in the region, Palestinian-Lebanese relations and future contingencies. Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed the need to continue meeting during the next 5 days work out solutions compatible with distinguished Sidon's position. Serious steps were taken to prevent the recurrence of such events. Emphasis was put on the fact that the joint force which has been formed should be supported and kept independent to enable it to prevent the occurrance of excesses.

At the end of the meeting, Brother Abu 'Ammar answered a question posed by one of the newsmen. He said that despite the Israeli threats which are being leveled by Israeli officials, politicians and ruling military clique and despite the troop concentrations, arrogance and impudence, I can say on behalf of the joint forces: The mountain cannot be shaken by the wind.

Brother Muhsin Ibrahim answered questions by saying: We discussed the situation in Sidon, the capital of the steadfast south, in the wake of the recent regrettable events. He added: It was a successful meeting during which we made a joint political analysis of the factors that caused the security disorder and its resulting complications which the citizens had to bear. Comrade Muhsin Ibrahim added: During the meeting, in which frank and serious discussions took place, we drew up a list of basic directives with regard to handling the political, security, military and popular situation in the town and the rest of southern Lebanon in order to ensure stability and a suitable atmosphere for the citizens that would preserve their dignity and prevent any excess aimed at the citizens' lives.

Comrade Muhsin Ibrahim added: These basic directives will be drafted within a specific working program. The brothers in the joint forces headquarters in the south will be assigned to draw up this program within the next few days. Hence, we decided to keep the joint forces' sessions open until the immediate security measures which were adopted are consolidated, in order to reach a radical comprehensive solution to all problems from which the citizens are suffering.

COMMUNISTS URGE ATTACK ON U.S. INTERESTS

PM201351 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 16 May 82 p 4

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The Communist Action Organization in Lebanon has called for "an Arab national counter-offensive against U.S. interests and for a real and decisive confrontation with the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance." It also said that a "real battle should be launched against all Arab reactionary factions, and the illusion of Arab solidarity, governed by the Camp David line in the light of the existing balances of power, should be abandoned."

A statement issued after a meeting held by the Political Bureau of the organization said that "the Camp David plot has shifted to a new phase, bringing the Arab liberation movement face to face with fateful challenges." It warned that the region is "the target of an American onslaught to cause a decisive alignment of powers and attract as many Arab regimes as possible to its side under the leadership of the Egyptian regime."

It maintained that, in its move to polarize the Arab regimes the Egyptian regime is relying on the "Saudi and Gulf reactionaries through the Prince Fahd plan, the Jordanian regime which is offering itself as an alternative to the PLO, the Iraqi regime which initiated the Iraqi-Iranian war to counter the mounting resistance to imperialism, Zionism and reaction in the Gulf region after the Iranian revolution, and the Moroccan regime which acts as the strike force guarding U.S. imperialist interests in Arab North Africa."

It accused Iraq of "starting the war" which in turn "strengthened the U.S. spheres of influence, served reactionary interests, and took Iraq, its army and resources out of the conflict with the United States, and Israel, thus causing a serious strategic shift in the balance of power at the expense of all the factions of the Arab liberation movement." It added that "the war has now brought Iraq to the verge of joining the Arab reactionary polarization which the Egypt regime is getting ready to lead."

The statement maintained that "the purpose of Arab reactionary polarization sought by the United States, under the leadership of Husni Mubarak's regime, is to contain and paralyze the positions of Arab steadfastness that are still opposed to the Camp David line, as a step toward striking at them one after another."

It emphasized that the aim of the plot is also to "liquidate the Palestinian revolution inside and outside the occupied territories, encircle and weaken Syria and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, liquidate the PDRY's progressive posutre, isolate and confuse Algeria and keep it occupied with the Sahara war, turn Lebanon into a pathway for the second phase of the Camp David scheme by providing the elements necessary for the success of the fascist isolationist plan which is supported by Israel and the United States and which seeks to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and cancel out the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and Syrian role to achieve a Zionization from within and establish peace with Israel."

The statement demanded a "commitment to a program of national confrontation focused on the need for the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to move from the position of merely opposing the Camp David triangle to a position of advanced positive action based on radical and decisive confrontation with the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance through a national Arab counteroffensive against U.S. interests in all their manifestations, forces and spheres of influence in the Arab world."

The statement pointed out that "any confrontation with the United States will be futile if it takes the form of a political, diplomatic and information campaign without reaching the head of Arab reaction. The Arab reactionary regimes are the real staging posts for imperialist influence in the region."

The statement urged "support for the sustained political and popular upheaval in the occupied and usurped Palestinian territory and Golan Heights. Political and material aid should be given to the Palestinian revolution, Syria's steadfastness should be strengthened, and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and all the Lebanese nationalist forces should be supported so that they will be able, in solidarity with the Palestinian revolution and alliance with Syria, to contain the fascist Phalangist scheme, stand fast against the Zionist danger, and prevent the completion and success of the second phase of the Camp David plot in Lebanon."

The statement also urged "support for forces of national democratic change in Iraq to enable them to set up an alternative progressive regime that would establish democracy in Iraq and give autonomy to Kurdistan."

The statement further said: "Although we support the Iranian Islamic revolution in its opposition to imperialism and Zionism, we do not believe it has been able to promote real revolutionary solutions to the problems of democracy, social progress and the national rights of the Iranian peoples. We also are basically opposed to the export of political ideology. We firmly believe a solution modeled on the Islamic revolution would not provide the necessary solution to Iraq's problems, which are the result of the policy of the present regime in Baghdad."

The statement underscored the importance of the "national link" and called for the release of "the democratic freedoms of the masses in all the Arab countries."

HAFIZ AL-ASAD CONFERS WITH DFLP DELEGATION

JN201656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine at 1145 today. The delegation was headed by the front's secretary general, Nayif Hawatimah, and included Salih Ra'fat, Qays 'Abd al-Karim and 'Isam 'Abd al-Latif.

The meeting dealt with the general situation in the region and current attempts to Arabize the Camp David agreements, which are hostile to the Arab nation and its Palestinian cause, by including new Arab states in the agreements and establishing contacts and relations with the Eygptian regime, which is bound by these agreements.

It was stressed that the pan-Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front must be strengthened and its role promoted on the Arab level. Discussion also revolved around the political and security aspects of the Lebanese situation.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES PLO OFFICIALS 20 MAY

JN201339 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar and PLO Information Department head Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh. The discussion dealt with the current Arab situation.

AL-AHMAR RECEIVES SOVIET PEACE DELEGATION

JN201439 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, has received a delegation from the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace headed by Aleksandr Kuzmin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in the Soviet Republic of Belorussia. Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, National Command member and president of the National Council of Peace Partisans in Syria, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Talks centered on friendship and cooperation between the two parties, the situation in the Middle East and the Zionist, imperialist and reactionary designs aimed at subjugating the Arab nation, liquidating the Palestinian cause and restoring U.S. hegemony to the region.

Al-Ahmar stressed our steadfast country's stand on the conspiracies and the current conspiratorial attempts to Arabize the Camp David accords. He stressed the importance of cohesion between the national and progressive forces and of consolidating an international front hostile to imperialism and Zionism. He expressed appreciation for the socialist bloc stands, foremost among which is that of the friendly Soviet Union, in support of our nation's just issues.

Kuzmin expressed appreciation for Syria's principled stands under President Hafiz al-Asad. He reaffirmed the Soviet Union's support for the Arab nation's struggle to liberate Arab territories and achieve progress and prosperity.

SOMALI DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS 20 MAY

JN202007 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] A delegation from the Somali Democratic Front for National Salvation arrived in Damscus tonight headed by the front's secretary general, Col 'Abdallah Yusuf. The delegation is visiting Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. During this visit, which will last several days, the delegation will meet with several party officials, visit several cultural sites and learn about the economic achievements of the Ba'th Party's revolution. The delegation was welcomed at Damscus International Airport by several party comrades.

ARMORED UNIT CARRIES OUT TACTICAL EXERCISE

JN201418 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] In accordance with instruction from President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the army and armed forces, one of our armored formations carried out a tactical exercise with the cooperation of different units of the armed forces, including fighter planes and helicopters.

The exercise was attended by Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and armed forces and defense minister; Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff for operations and training affairs; senior armed forces officers; and a number of army formation commanders.

The exercise commander briefed General Talas on the tactical plan, the implementation phases and the exercise's training objectives.

The forces then launched their attacks under artillery and air force cover against mock enemy forces, inflicting grave losses. The formation resumed its combat mission in conjunction with air units, thus developing its ability to attack at night, it captured its assigned target, which was deep within enemy defenses.

The combat operations of the commanders and units were characterized by precision, quick-wittedness, firm command and effective coordination. The tactical exercise simulated actual combat operations. High combat efficiency, skill and precision were and displayed during the exercise.

At the end of the tactical exercise, General Talas praised the efforts exerted by the exercise commanders and units, stressing the need for continued training of our combat forces. He asked them to exert further efforts in preparation for the decisive battle against the usurper Zionist enemy.

MAPAM FACTION OBJECTS TO PERETZ, LINN MOVE

TA201042 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] The meeting between the heads of MAPAM and the Labor Party ended in Tel Aviv a short while ago. MAPAM Secretary Victor Shem-Tov told our correspondent Asher Schwartz there is a crisis in relations between the two parties because of the incorporation of Knesset Members Linn and Peretz into the Alignment. He explained that, according to the Alignment charter, MAPAM has the right to object to the incorporation of new members into the Alignment and it will not renounce this right. The Alignment executive will soon convene to deal with the present situation.

LABOR FACTION SEEKS CLARIFICATION OF PARTY STAND

TA201123 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] The chairman of the minorities branch in the Labor Party, Ra'anan Kohen, has warned that Amnon Linn's return to the Alignment could undermine efforts to get Israeli Arabs to identify with the Labor Party. Today at the Labor Party office he intends to insist on knowing if Linn's return presages the adoption of his policy as a basis for the party's approach to the Arabs of Israel. Kohen has told our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar that Linn's return is arousing concern among the Arabs who support the Labor Party and many of them have already asked for explanations from him on this issue.

DEFENSE MINISTER SHARON DEPARTS FOR U.S.

TA200528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Early this morning Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon departed for the United States, where he will confer with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports Sharon may be invited to meet with President Reagan. The defense minister is accompanied by the director general of the Defense Ministry and adviser on national security. In the meetings, Sharon will discuss the autonomy issue, Palestinian terrorism, the supply of sophisticated U.S. weapons to Arab countries and the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States. Sharon departed for the United States on a mission on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and he will appear before some 1,000 Jewish leaders in Washington. Later, he will attend a parade for Israel which will be held on Fifth Avenue in New York.

Sharon's Objectives

TA200936 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 82 pp 1, 2

[Military correspondent's report]

[Excerpt] The defense minister's confidants say Sharon's chances of obtaining the objectives of his current visit to the United States are good. They quote Sharon as having said the suspension of the memorandum of understanding not only did not damage Israel, it even benefitted Israel, since the United States will pay interest for the delay.

Another objective of the defense minister's U.S. visit is to obtain permission from the United States to convert several hundred million dollars into shekels in order for Israel to be able to expand independent production by the defense industries, among other things, to help develop the Lavi aircraft.

Sharon also intends to talk with the Ministry of Defense and IDF representatives in the United States about Israel's procurement plans there, and to reexamine the possibility of unifying the Defense Ministry delegation and the IDF attaches, and to seek ways for these bodies to reduce expenses. It should be noted that Sharon's confidant, Arye Ganger, went to the United States a few days ago.

'Senior Official' on Objectives

TA201112 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 82 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel will oppose any U.S. proposal for defense cooperation that would prevent it from being able to act freely against the terrorists in Lebanon.

These remarks were made to MA'ARIV last night by a senior political official on the eve of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's trip to Washington to discuss the implementation of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation.

Israel, so it has been reported, will express willingness to strengthen the political-security coordination and cooperation with the Unied States; but on issues vital to its security, such as the policy toward Lebanon, Jerusalem wants to maintain complete freedom of action.

Sharon flew to the United States last night for what was described as a private visit, but during which he is to meet in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to discuss -- according to senior Israeli sources -- "without preconditions" -- the implementation of the memorandum of understanding.

Minister Sharon will also urge the U.S. administration to fulfill its promises of U.S. aid for African countries dealing with Israel.

The United States supports Israeli activity in Africa and hopes that Israel's ties there will help establish an anti-Soviet bloc in Africa against Soviet expansionism.

In the United States the defense minister expects to obtain an increase in U.S. aid to Israeli security industries, including aid for the Lavi project.

While in the United States, Sharon will also be the main Israeli official in the "march of salute to Israel."

IDF OFFICER WARNS OF REDUCED EARLY WARNING TIME

TA201213 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 20 May 82 p 5

[Report by Yitzhaq Zekharyah]

[Text] "In the event of a confrontation between enemy aircraft and IDF ground forces, the defense force that would meet the various types of MiG's would make it very doubtful that they would be able to return home safely," the commander of the air force's antiaircraft forces told BAMAHANE.

According to the commander, the quantity of aircraft in the possession of the Arab air forces has doubled since the Yom Kippur war. But along with this quantitative improvement, there has also been an appreciable qualitative improvement in these weapons. Today the antiaircraft units have to cope with challenges from MiG-23's, MiG-25's and advanced Sukhoi aircraft.

"The antiaircraft units are also training and preparing themselves for the possibility the enemy will attack Israel with F-15 and F-16 aircraft from those given to the Arab countries," the senior officer said, adding: "But on this issue we can prepare ourselves well since we know the characteristics of those aircraft very well."

Regarding the reduction of airspace because of the return of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt, the commander said early-warning is of decisive importance in battle -- indeed, it is sometimes more important than the number of attacking aircraft. The short early-warning time with which we now have to cope, because of the reduction of Israeli airspace, makes it more difficult to operate.

MINISTER TZIPORI WARNS OF ACTION IN LEBANON

TA201016 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 May 82 p 2

[Report by U.S. correspondent Yosef Pri'el]

[Text] Washington -- Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori has said "the terrorists are now ripe to receive a serious blow for any action they take on Israel's northern border, regardless of whether they cause casualties."

In an interview published in the paper OUR ISRAEL, which is published in New York, Tzipori says if a decision is made to take action against the terrorists, this will be done without consideration for the internal political situation in Israel. In the interview he criticized "the person who maliciously leaked a report that a confrontation occurred among the Cabinet members at the session that dealt with an action against the terrorists."

INCREASED TERRORIST ACTIVITY NOTED IN S. LEBANON

TA201611 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1545 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Over the last 24 hours increased terrorist activity has been noted in southern Lebanon. A Christian militia spokesman reported the militia fired toward a terrorist squad of the George Habash organization which planted mines near Marj 'Uyun. In another sector in southern Lebanon the terrorists fired toward a UNIFIL helicopter. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports:

[Begin recording] A Christian militia spokesman reported the five terrorists who planted the mines early this morning about 700 meters northwest of Marj 'Uyun left their bases in Mazra'at al-Mahmudiyah in southern Lebanon. The spokesman reported three mines of the BM-46 and DM-4 type, of Soviet make, were planted. While the terrorists were preoccupied with planting the mines on a main traffic axis where numerous Christian militia vehicles move daily, Major Haddad's soldiers opened short-range fire on them. The terrorists withdrew to their positions and the militia this morning discovered in the region two backpacks and additional sabotage materials. There are no UNIFIL soldiers as yet in the area from which the terrorists penetrated into Major Haddad's territory. It was reported by the UN command in An-Naqurah that some tens of UNIFIL soldiers will arrive in this area in the coming days so as to constitute a barrier between the terrorists and the militia.

Last night fire was opened from a terrorist position in the western sector in southern Lebanon toward a UNIFIL helicopter flying in the region of the village of Tiban in southern Lebanon. Netherlands UNIFIL soldiers returned fire toward the sources of firing. After 2 weeks of quiet in southern Lebanon, increased activity by the terrorists there has been recorded over the last 24 hours. [end recording]

Haddad Protests to UNIFIL

TA201622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Militia Commander Sa'd Haddad submitted a sharp protest to UNIFIL stating that the planting of mines near Marj 'Uyun this morning is a gross violation of the cease-fire by the terrorists. Senior UNIFIL officers told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that in their opinion the major partners to the cease-fire -- Israel and the PLO -- are working to maintain quiet in the sector. However, according to these officers, about another 20 fringe organizations are active in southern Lebanon and want to cause trouble. The PLO will be tested in its ability to control these organizations and impose military discipline on them.

IDF SOURCES COMMENT ON SYRIAN ARMY EXERCISE

TA201726 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] IDF sources say no extraordinary significance should be attached to the Syrian exercise. The sources told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal the exercise is one in a series of exercises intended to increase the readiness and morale of the Syrian Army. Over the last year the Syrians have carried out at least seven similar offensive exercises.

ARAB SOURCES ON SYRIAN AIR FORCE PROBLEMS

TA211038 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 May 82 p 14

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Text] How do Israeli Air Force aircraft manage to intercept Syrian fighters trying to disrupt our aircraft activity over Lebanon? An interesting answer to this has been given by Arab sources. According to these sources, the Syrian Air Force is faced with a combination of major problems:

A. Syrian aircraft have to take off for Lebanese territory from bases removed from the battle arena. Therefore, they cannot catch up with the speedy and sophisticated Israeli aircraft.

B. Israeli early warning stations on Mt Hermon and the mountain chains in the north monitor all flight routes in Syrian and Lebanese territory, while Syrian radar is blocked by the Lebanon Mountains. Thus, a "blind spot" is created for the Syrians, and it is here that the IDF manipulates the aerial dogfights.

C. Dogfights take place with absolute Israeli control, with the help of the air force's operations room, which directs the pilots. The Syrians are flying "blind," without being able to see the enemy planes on radar or receive the appropriate instructions from the operations room inside Syrian territory.

The Syrians find it hard to overcome these difficulties: They cannot position sophisticated radar systems in Lebanon for fear they will be destroyed by Israel or that they will have to defend them with a sophisticated missile system. They are likewise unable to keep their pilots in a state of continual alert and readiness.

PRIME MINISTER SENDS MESSAGE TO ZAIRE'S MOBUTU

TA200546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] A few minutes ago, our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reported that the prime minister is sending a message to the Zairian president promising Israel will cooperate with Zaire in many fields and will help it improve its standing in U.S. public opinion. Our correspondent emphasizes that the prime minister's message is being sent against the background of the Saudi announcement severing ties with Zaire following the resumption of its diplomatic relations with Israel.

Zairian Envoy on Embassy

TA191710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The Zairian ambassador in Brussels has said his country's embassy in Israel will be situated in Tel Aviv, not in Jerusalem. According to him, whoever announced that the embassy would be in Jerusalem wanted to cause diplomatic difficulties. The ambassador, Kengo Wa Dondo, explained to correspondents that after Israel had withdrawn from the Sinai, in Zaire's view the problem of the occupied territories had been solved. Egypt, he emphasized, had established diplomatic ties with Israel and there was no reason for Zaire not to follow suit. The ambassador emphasized that his government is convinced that other African countries will soon announce that they will be renewing their ties with Israel.

JERUSALEM ARABIC ON ARAB REACTION TO ZAIRE MOVE

JN201736 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 20 May 82

[Commentary by Anis Tawfiq]

[Excerpts] Among this week's interesting news is an item from Tunis saying that a source close to the Arab League revealed that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and Ash-Shadhili al-'Iyari, the president of the Arab Bank for Development in Africa [ABDA], recently discussed Zaire's decision to resume its diplomatic relations with Israel and its declaration that it would make Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, the location of its embassy. The source added the talks between the two men dealt with the urgent measures which should be taken by the Arab League secretariat and ABDA against Zaire in light of previous decisions of the Arab League.

This news item implies a threat to impose economic and banking sanctions against Zaire because it exercised its legitimate right as a state to decide with whom to have relations, when and on what level to have them and where to open its embassy. In other words, the Arab League believes it has the right to interfere in affairs related to the sovereignty of an independent African state and to dictate to it what to do and what not to do with this or that state. It is immaterial if this state be Israel or not; the Arab League might fall out with some other state such as China or the USSR and attempt to impose its will on any state that has relations with them.

The Republic of Zaire is not within the Arab League and is not related to any state in this league. It is not tied to Israel nor is it a satellite. Such a state has its own views; it has its rights, complete sovereignty, laws and freedom to have relations or to sever relations. The Arab states should know that when Zaire severed its diplomatic relations Israel was not angry; it did not announce a boycott of Zaire and did not summon presidents of banks to impose economic sanctions on it. All Israel did was ask another state to look after its affairs in Zaire and send its employees to the embassy of that state.

Israel continued its economic, agricultural, industrial and other relations with Zaire. Israel respected Zaire's right to make any decision it wants or to renounce any such decision.

Israel and all other civilized states do not approve of the right of a state or a league of states to interfere in its affairs or in the affairs of any other state because the right of sovereignty of any state is sacred and cannot be encroached upon.

BEGIN ASKS EMBASSIES TO MOVE TO JERUSALEM

TA191101 Jerusalem POST in English 19 May 82 p 3

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] Heartened by Costa Rica's decision 10 days ago to move its embassy from Tel Aviv back to Jerusalem, Prime Minister Menahem Begin has appealed to "all democratic nations" to follow in Costa Rica's footsteps.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor, in an unusual step, yesterday issued the verbatim text of Begin's appeal of 16 May. Among his remarks, Begin said: "I call on (the democratic nations) from across ocean to adopt as speedily as possible a resolution to...move their embassies to Jerusalem."

"Our capital," he said, is "more ancient than any other capital in the world, including Rome, as I managed to tell the Italian foreign minister (Emilio Colombo, who last week visited Israel.) Perhaps he didn't like it, but I had to tell him that Jerusalem came before Rome."

"No nonrecognition (of Jerusalem as Israel's capital) will be recognized by us," said Begin, who then related that he had said this to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter at Camp David in 1978.

"But it is for their honour, and not ours alone," Begin said, "that they should decide to put an end to the situation whereby the Jewish people and the Jewish state are maintained as an exception by them... We promise them -- I hope the minister of construction will confirm my words -- beautiful buildings, which we will build quickly to house their embassies."

"As for nondemocratic nations," Begin continued, "appeals don't help, and therefore I make no appeal to them. Perhaps we will get to them, too, by other means," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Minister David Levi added that "all the matters have now been arranged" to enable ministries located outside of Jerusalem to move now to the capital.

"The minister of communications (Mordekhay Tzipori) has informed me that he has already given the order (to move the ministry to Jerusalem) and treatment of the matter will begin this week. I expect the minister of agriculture (Simha Ehrlich) to issue the directive to his ministry (as well)," said Levi at the Cabinet meeting.

SHAMIR CRITICIZES EGYPT OVER JERUSALEM ISSUE

TA201149 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today attacked Egypt and President Mubarak for boycotting Jerusalem. In a rally of new immigrants on the occasion of Jerusalem Day, the foreign minister stated that every people is entitled to determine its capital. Israel chose Jerusalem and no power in the world will change this decision.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Melekh] Hundreds of new and old immigrants today praised Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir who, in a rally held by the Jewish Agency on the occasion of Jerusalem Day, reiterated that Israel will never give up Jerusalem as its capital.

[Shamir] After our war over Jerusalem ended in military victory, we are now ruling over all of Jerusalem. The political war is still underway in the United Nations, in international organizations and in the offices of various countries. They [international leaders] come to Jerusalem but, to this day, they do not recognize our right to have Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. They do no such thing to any other people. We determined that Jerusalem is our capital and no international resolution will change this fact. [applause]

[Ben-Melekh] Shamir reviewed the thousands of years of history of Israel's capital. He said Israel's enemies have always aspired to attack and destroy Jerusalem. After recounting past harrassment of the capital, Shamir returned to the current struggle over Jerusalem. This time, Shamir directed his remarks against Egypt:

[Shamir] These days, when we encounter Eygptian obstinacy not to conduct the autonomy negotiations in Jerusalem, when we encounter a refusal to pay a state and official visit to Jerusalem, this is not a war over procedures, nor is it obstinacy over diplomatic protocol. It can be said it does not matter where the negotiations are held; what counts is the topic, the content of the negotiations. We say: No, if we gave up Jerusalem as the venue for holding negotiations and talks, if we participated in the boycott of Jerusalem we would be losing the negotiations before they started. We would be abandoning our political positions beforehand.

[Ben-Malekh] The foreign minister did not just criticize today; he also had words of gratitude to Costa Rica for its decision to return its embassy to Jerusalem. [end recording]

RABIN ON CAMP DAVID, RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

TA201545 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1530 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Tel Aviv, 20 May -- "There is no proof that Egyptian President Mubarak bears the same personal commitment toward us as did President as-Sadat. This may be learned from his obstinacy to conducting negotiations in Jerusalem and from his tendency to get closer to the Arab countries opposed to the Camp David accords." This was said by MK Yitzhaq Rabin in a speech to the Rotary Club in Tel Aviv today.

Rabin emphasized it is possible the Egyptian president will reveal intransigence in the continued autonomy negotiations, but one should remember the United States too did not show enthusiasm about moving the negotiations more quickly. "The reality is that Israel is a purely democratic country and will meet all its commitments but we will not agree to any damage caused to the conditions or terms involved in the continuation of the peace process, terms which are based on the Camp David agreements," MK Rabin stressed.

Later, Rabin said he viewed the Camp David accords as the basis for solving the Israeli-Arab conflict and "therefore we require that our two partners to the agreement, the Egyptians and the Americans, keep their part of the agreement. We have achieved a breakthrough with one Arab country and it is to be regretted there is no follow up to this. I hope peace will spread into other countries as well but this will be a prolonged process. We must keep our strength to continue and maintain the peace process," he said.

NEW VILLAGE LEAGUES SET UP IN JANIN, TULKARM

TA191302 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 19 May 82 p 7

[Text] New area village leagues have been established recently in Janin and Tulkarm. The establishment of these new leagues takes place within the framework of civilian administration efforts to encourage the leagues, whose prominent leader is Mustafa Dudin, the head of the Hebrew Hills Area Village League.

U.S. CONSUL REPORTEDLY BOYCOTTS ARAB MODERATES

TA191355 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 19 May 82 p 7

[Text] The U.S. consul in east Jerusalem, Mr Grove, is responsible for boycotting leaders in Judaea and Samaria, who hold moderate opinions and have reservations about the declining power of PLO supporters in Judaea and Samaria.

It has been learned that the consul conducts constant negotiations [as published] with the PLO supporters in Judaea and Samaria, boycotts moderate leaders and helps in transferring money to PLO supporters through charity organizations in Judaea and Samaria from funds delivered by the State Department, the U.S. Congress and U.S. circles opposed to the Camp David accords.

MOLOTOV COCKTAILS THROWN AT IDF VEHICLES 19 MAY

TA191254 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1110 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Unidentified persons threw two molotov cocktails at a military car near Jericho early this morning. The molotov cocktails exploded on the road, and there were no casualties or damage.

MOLOTOV COCKTAIL THROWN AT CAR; ONE WOUNDED

TA202110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] A molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli car in Al-'Ayzariyah east of Jerusalem, and its driver was wounded. This is reported by our correspondent Moti 'Eden.

Two armed youths entered an Arab boarding school in east Jerusalem this evening, burst into the secretariat's room, damaged equipment there and left a letter stating that if the students do not stop hurling stones at Israelis their end will be bitter. The letter was signed in the name of Rabbi Kahana's organization and the area village leagues. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that such threatening letters also reach public institutions and figures in the territories. Such letters yesterday reached the Nabulus federation of professional unions and An-Najah University.

MENAHEM MILSON'S POLICY IN TERRITORIES REVIEWED

TA210759 Jerusalem POST in English 21 May 82 p 6

[Commentary by David Richardson: "When the Mud Sticks"]

[Text] For at least 2 weeks now rumours have abounded that all was not well with the West Bank civilian administration and its chief vizier, Menahem Milson.

Twenty-five veteran staff officers in the civilian administration wrote him a letter (which was leaked to the press), a copy of which was sent to the Defence Ministry, complaining that he was ignoring their professional experience.

Earlier this week, following a report that Milson was to be dismissed, official sources in the Defence Ministry "denied any knowledge of such an intention," but they would not deny it outright.

"I can't argue with a denial from the ministry," said one senior Defence Ministry official this week, "but in my opinion it's only a matter of time."

In the 7 months that Milson has been in office, his name has become inseparably linked with what has been happening on the West Bank.

Milson has argued, as have many of those close to him, that it is too early to pass judgement on his efforts to take on and undermine the PLO's political stranglehold of the Palestinian population in the West Bank. Theoretically, that might be fair and true. But it does seem as though events have overtaken him and the policies with which he has, willy nilly, become associated.

It is always unfair to examine events through the prism of one man's personality -- particularly if he is not a politician but a civil servant with circumscribed powers. But it is unfortunately true -- particularly in this part of the world -- that perceptions are at least as important as the objective reality.

"The number one problem is his personality," said one staff officer this week. That statement could and should be dismissed if it represented the view of only one man. But Milson has managed to irritate employees in the civil administration, senior staff officers with whom he must work in the area, officers and officials in the Defence Ministry and army headquarters in Tel Aviv -- let alone the Arabs in the area and the local and foreign press which has, by and large, been hostile.

According to many officials, Milson has failed to satisfy the expectations he and his promoters (who are now silent) initially generated.

In particular, he has not proved an able administrator they say, an essential requirement in a bureaucratic organization which is used to being led by capable and experienced army officers with years of staff experience and often with the charisma and peppery personality that comes with rank and battlefield command.

This opinion of Milson is shared by some academic associates who, while expressing personal admiration and sympathy, add that Milson was not a good administrator when he headed the institute for Asian and African Studies at the Hebrew University.

By comparison, the military officials point to the performance in Gaza of Brig Gen Yosef Lunz, a former governor of Nabulus and Ramallah, who is both military commander and civilian administrator.

"Despite the claustrophobia of the refugee camps and the traumatic advance of the Egyptians so close to the strip, there has been comparatively little trouble," they say.

Even if one can argue with this, it is clear that none of the flack associated with the shootings and unrest in the strip has hit "Lunzi."

Milson also hoped, the military officials feel, to somehow supersede the coordinator of activities in the territories and, at the time of his appointment, there were grounds to believe he would succeed. The assumption was supported by statements from Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon about "direct involvement in running the West Bank" and "having his own man on the spot," as well as growls of dissatisfaction from the coordinator's office before the resignation/retirement of Maj Gen Dani Mat from the post.

The selection of Rehavya Vardi to replace Mat has, if anything, reinforced the position of the coordinator. Vardi, a veteran intelligence officer and successful businessman is, by all accounts, a very able administrator who has quickly mastered the intricacies of the West Bank and Gaza. He still controls a substantial part of the budget allocated for the area, and has shied away from any publicity.

Insiders also point out that Milson's physical distance from the Tel Aviv Qirya [government offices district] and Vardi's proximity to the minister's bureau (one floor below his office) have increased Sharon's reliance on him.

In addition, since West Bank policy is not the sole responsibility of the defence minister, the prime minister's adviser on terror, Refa'el Eytan -- also a veteran security service officer, is said to have some influence on what is done in an area that Milson must regard as "his patch."

Milson, of course, has access to the minister, but what with Sharon's recent pre-occupations with Yamit, the Sinai withdrawal, Tabah and various political and military crises, communication has been by telephone.

This was almost patronizingly underlined in a Defence Ministry announcement at the beginning of the week which stated that Sharon would be seeing Milson "within the next few days to discuss various questions related to the civilian administration, like extending crossing hours at the Jordan bridges."

If insiders feel as they do, it is small wonder the local Arab population does not understand, let alone accept, the distinction between a civil administrator and a military governor.

And this leads to the policy itself: "The separation of the two functions has proved a failure," one observer said this week. "In a situation where one has terrorist activity so closely bound up with political activity, one can't split the organization that has to deal with it. And it doesn't make any difference if Milson or someone else is involved. You can't have a ship with two captains," was how one officer put it, referring to the tension between Milson and the military commanders in the area.

Another mistake, closely linked with Milson, was Israel's ostentatious support for the village leagues. Both Israeli and West Bank observers believe that the experience with the leagues has shown that the Israeli administration is only capable of eliciting the support of corrupt and marginal figures.

It also appears to have been a mistake to generate too many expectations -- on both sides. It would have been wiser to work unobtrusively, gradually increasing the participation and autonomy of local Arab officials and politicians in the administration -- which has been the basic policy for years.

Milson tried to strengthen the traditional pro-Jordanian elements, assuming that the Jordanians would just stand by and allow them to be manipulated to serve Israeli interests. Arming the village leagues was the trigger that provoked a Jordanian reaction to counter a threat to its traditional constituency in the area.

What now of the man and of the policy? Insiders and those who have known Milson for some time do not expect him to stay on beyond the year he has taken off from the university. That would provide both Milson and Sharon with a convenient date for a separation. Sharon does not like working with losers, his primary concern being what is good for Sharon -- and a broken wing does not help a hawk in flight.

What remains unclear, however, is whether Sharon will use Milson's departure to revise or reverse the policy -- Milson serving as the "fall guy" for a minister's mistakes -- or whether Sharon and the government will continue to press for local acceptance of autonomy.

Several West Bank and military sources agreed this week that the coming summer months will be quiet. Not only the impending school holidays and the preoccupation with agricultural work in the fields, but the apparent failure of Egypt and Israel to even agree on where to reconvene the autonomy talks have already reduced tension.

Several also point out that there is grass-roots pressure -- particularly from commercial interests -- to restore calm. A leading Israeli tour bus operator has cancelled tours to Nabulus and Hebron. In Hebron, souvenir shops run by both local residents and Jewish settlers from Qiryat Arba' are almost empty and the owners of the glass factories on the main road outside the town are bitter.

The PLO, entangled in the cease-fire, is primarily concerned with surviving in Lebanon. What looks like the bursting of the Iraqi military bubble -- and the implications of that for Jordan and Syria -- and Egypt's apparent determination to maintain relations with Israel requires some reassessment by West Bankers.

Part of the reassessment must take into account the possible departure of Menahem Milson and a possible change in policy. And that could mean a unilaterally applied autonomy along the lines suggested by the man Milson blames most for the current impasse in the West Bank -- Moshe Dayan.

U.S. APPEALS FOR END TO MILITARY AID TO IRAN

TA191359 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 May 82 p 1

[Report by Washington correspondent Rafa'el Man]

[Text] The United States has recently appealed to Israel to abstain from extending further military aid to Iran in light of increasing fears in Washington about an Iraqi defeat in the Iran-Iraq war and its impact on the situation in the region.

Sources in Washington reported the U.S. appeal was delivered to Israel in recent days and it is based, among other things, on information reaching the United States to the effect that Israel continues to sell arms to the Tehran government.

In contacts with Israel, the administration conveyed its assessment that in the event of an Iraqi defeat, not only would the interests of the Persian Gulf states -- which are worried about developments -- be affected but those of Israel as well.

Several Arab countries, including Jordan and Egypt, have recently renewed their appeals to the United States to improve its ties with Iraq and to help it in the war with Iran. Israel's Ambassador to Washington Moshe Arens has recently cautioned that a U.S. rapprochement with Iraq might push Iran into the arms of the Soviet Union.

EEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PRESIDENT TO VISIT 29 MAY

TA201044 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 82 p 6

[Text] Belgian Minister of External Affairs Leo Tindemans, who is serving as the current president of the EEC Council of Ministers, is to visit Israel on 29 May. The Brussels External Affairs Ministry spokesman has reported that Tindemans will meet with Prime Minister Begin during his visit, which will last 3 days. Tindemans has recently visited Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and next month he is apparently to visit other Arab countries. He will present a report on the results of his talks in Israel and the Arab countries at the summit conference of EEC heads of state at the end of June. Tindemans has said the EEC will not raise new proposals for a solution to the crisis in the Middle East at this stage.

OAU DENIES CONFERENCE CANCELED DUE TO SDAR

NC192048 Paris AFP in English 2021 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 19 May (AFP) -- A top official of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) denied today reports that a conference of OAU agriculture ministers due to open here on Monday was adjourned yesterday over the controversy provoked by the admission to the OAU of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

Ambassador Noureddine Djoudi, OAU assistant secretary-general for educational, scientific and cultural affairs, who was in charge of the meeting, said a delegation of the SADR had not even registered for the gathering.

A large number of countries that have formally recognized the SADR, such as Angola, Mozambique or Sao Tome, also did not turn up for the meeting, Mr Djoudi said.

He said 27 countries, including Mauritania which has not formally recognized the SADR, supported the government set up by the Polisario guerrilla movement that is fighting Morocco for the control of the former Spanish Western Sahara.

"If they had all come, the quorum of a simple majority of OAU member states would have been met," he added.

A second session of the OAU ministers of agriculture, called the inter-ministerial committee for food, was adjourned yesterday for lack of a quorum.

The meeting was to have heard reports on the food situation in Africa and on implementation of food plans for the continent, where food insecurity because of falling production, drought and problems with land rights is growing.

"I want to state very categorically that the meeting did not fail because of the SADR," Mr Djoudi said.

"The conference bureau, chaired by Ethiopia, simply postponed it because only 15 delegates out of the 51 member states came to Addis Ababa and registered for the meeting."

The OAU assistant secretary-general said the postponement of OAU meetings was never regarded as unusual before the controversy sparked off by the admission of the SADR here in February.

Asked whether a boycott of OAU meetings had not become a trend as a result, Mr Djoudi said "not in every case".

He said a meeting of OAU culture ministers scheduled in Addis Ababa last month had been cancelled by the Secretariat in advance, but 12 delegations who had not received notice of the cancellation arrived nevertheless.

ALGERIA

GOVERNMENT RECALLS AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE

LD201300 Algiers APS in English 1123 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Algiers, 20 May (APS) -- The Algerian Government recalled its ambassador in Kinshasa, the Foreign Affairs Ministry announced. This measure followed the Zaire's Government decision to resume its diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ATTENDS PARATROOP EXERCISES 19 MAY

LD191400 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, supreme commander of the armed forces, this morning attended part of the heavy-drop [isqat ath-thaqil] exercises by the storm and paratroop forces.

LIBERATION FRONT OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON AIMS

LD021700 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 May 82 p 3

[Unnamed ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT correspondent interview with former Libyan prime minister and oppositionist 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush in Khartoum -- date not given

[Excerpts] 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush, the Libyan lawyer who once was in power, is now secretary general of the Front for the Liberation of Libya which is led by Bashir ar-Rabiti, chairman of the Federal National Assembly during the Egyptian-Libyan-Syrian unity. 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bakkush occupied several ministerial posts and became Libyan prime minister during the King as-Sanusi era. Later he became his country's ambassador in Paris, and on his return to Tripoli after Al-Qadhdhafi's coup in September 1969 he was arrested several times.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed him in Khartoum during a visit to Sudan, where he was attending the exhibition on Libyan sabotage in Africa. The interview follows:

[Question] What are the objectives of the Front for the Liberation of Libya?

[Answer] Its immediate objective is to remove Al-Qadhdhafi's regime, which is oppressing the Libyan people, and to unite the Libyan people in order to establish a democratic regime in which there will be no room for autocratic rule. A regime that is based on a constitution and institutions that protect freedom and enable the people to elect their rulers and lay down laws in a civilized manner.

[Question] Does this mean you are in favor of a multiparty system?

[Answer] Yes, we call for political parties.

[Question] How will you achieve these objectives?

[Answer] First, we must bring the Libyans living abroad together and organize them for resistance at home and enable them to confront the colonel's regime. We believe our basic task is to organize, bring together and help resistance inside Libya.

We have our means and contacts with the resistance inside the country. We do not claim we have become big or a force that can change the regime now, but we are sure of standing fast until victory. There is great resistance at home and there is public grumbling, but there is a lack of organization. We do not need to convince the public of the need for Al-Qadhdhafi's regime to be removed, for Al-Qadhdhafi's bloody system has convinced the people of that.

[Question] How do you evaluate Al-Qadhdhafi's position internally?

[Answer] Al-Qadhdhafi has made himself repulsive to the people, and he is therefore helping us to achieve our objectives as early as possible. He hangs innocent people without trial and makes unpopular decisions, such as abolishing free enterprise, changing the currency, halving the wages of workers and employees and abolishing private ownership. His decisions stem from an idea that has dominated his thinking, namely, that he is above the people, and so he does not care whether the public is pleased or angry.

[Question] What is Libya's current international position?

[Answer] On the regional level nobody trusts him, and Libya's name has become synonymous with everything evil. Some rulers appease him either out of greed for his money or fear of his terror. This state of affairs applies to Africa and the Arab area. Even the Soviets themselves do not trust him, but they use him in their operations in Africa, first in order to finance such operations and, second, to reflect their views, which they cannot express directly to the peoples.

[Question] What kind of relationship is there between the Front for the Liberation of Libya and the Front for Libyan Salvation?

[Answer] There is no relationship between the two organizations, and we differ from them.

[Question] What are your differences?

[Answer] There are in fact neither differences nor agreement. In the final analysis any Libyan working against Al-Qadhdhafi's regime is, in our view, performing a sacred national duty. We have not considered uniting with them. Their method is different from ours and diversity could enrich the Libyan opposition movement. Our action stems from Cairo, and we have offices in Morocco, Sudan and Somalia. But we could move our headquarters to Khartoum.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA TO VISIT CAIRO 'IN NEXT FEW DAYS'

LD201840 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Washington, 20 May (MAP) -- Foreign Minister Mohamed Boucetta, said in Washington today that he will visit Cairo in the next few days and explained that this will be within an African, not Arab context.

The Moroccan foreign minister confirmed during a press conference held on the occasion of his majesty's visit to the United States that Morocco, attacked by weapons imported from Eastern countries, finds itself forced to seek arms from the West to defend itself. He said: "Morocco is now facing an Algerian-Libyan expansion aimed at reaching the Atlantic Ocean."

He announced that Morocco will do all it can to make Zaire reconsider its decision to resume relations with Israel.

SUDAN

MENA CITES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER ON INTEGRATION PLANS

NC160650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 15 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA) -- Speaker of the Sudanese People's Assembly 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid has said that Presidents Husni Mubarak and Ja'far Numayri decided at their recent meeting in Khartoum to adopt revolutionary steps in the field of integration between the two countries.

In an interview the newspaper AL-AKHBAR will publish tomorrow, Sunday, he said that to achieve integration between Egypt and Sudan, there must be a cohesion between the masses of the Nile Valley. He noted that this cannot be achieved while Sudan and Egypt are separated by a population vacuum resulting from the emigration of Nubians in the two countries following the construction of the High Dam. He demanded the return of the Nubians to their old living places and the creation of urgent economic projects, not to be delayed by procedural studies.

The Sudanese speaker also demanded a reduction in travel fares between the two countries to achieve a cohesion of the Nile Valley population, even if it is at the expense of the transportation companies of the two countries. He noted that the material loss in this case would be compensated by a great political and social gain.

On cooperation among the youths of the two countries, 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid said that the youths of Egypt and Sudan will shortly meet in Sharm ash-Shaykh and Juba and later in other cities of the two countries and that the youths of the two countries will participate in the establishment of joint projects.

TUNISIA

MZALI INTERVIEWED ON ARAB-EGYPT RELATIONS

LD200900 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0723 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 20 May (KUNA) -- In statements published here today, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali has warned that the return of Egypt to the Arab fold without a resolution on the matter by an Arab summit conference could further deepen inter-Arab division.

In his statements, published by the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA', Mzali said the attitude of the various Arab countries toward reconciliation with Egypt "should be decided on at a summit conference." He warned that "the adoption of an Arab decision on this matter without an Arab summit conference could further deepen inter-Arab divisions. I personally do not favor divisions, and consequently I would like to see the issue submitted to the forthcoming Arab summit conference."

Asked if he believes that were an Arab summit conference held, it would agree to Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, Mzali said "no. However, it would enable us to formulate our stand, discuss the matter and consider all the facts: What is Egypt's position? What is the future of Israeli-Egyptian relations? What is the fate of Prince Fahd's project? All these are facts that should be taken into consideration. There are numerous facts."

He warned that any unilateral or bilateral decisions on the part of the Arab countries to restore Egypt to the Arab League, from which it was expelled after it had signed the peace accords with Israel, will only widen the rift among the Arabs.

It is recalled that a number of Arab countries such as the Sultanate of Oman, Jordan and Morocco have called for Egypt's return to the Arab fold after Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai, which took place on 25 April.

Prime Minister Mzali also expressed pessimism about the possible resumption of the adjourned Arab summit conference in Fes in the near future. "Frankly," he said, "I detect no progress or new developments that would raise hopes for reconvening this conference at present. Inter-Arab divisions are now more fierce and threaten to grow wider and deeper than they were before the Fes summit conference on 25 November." However, Mzali added that he personally would like to rely on the "wisdom" of the Arab rulers "for salvaging what can be salvaged."

It is recalled the Fes summit was adjourned only a few hours after it had started because of inter-Arab differences on the Saudi Middle East peace plan submitted by Prince Fahd ibn al-'Aziz.

Prime Minister Mzali described the Saudi plan as "general principles and lines that could be further scrutinized and adjusted through additions or deletions." He called for the adoption of this plan by an Arab summit conference "so that the Israeli enemy would be embarrassed and so that the Arabs would win stronger and more effective friendship from those countries with the last word."

He described the Fahd plan as "a clever attempt that could inject life into the current impasse." He affirmed, however, that this "does not mean I approve of it in its present form. It is a plan that could form the basis for a discussion."

It is worth noting that the Saudi plan calls for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the exercise by all the area's countries of the right to live together in peace.

Asked if Egyptian-Arab reconciliation would necessitate Cairo's severance of relations with Israel, Prime Minister Mzali replied in the negative. "But," he said, "Egypt's policy and that of the Arabs could move toward rallying around the Prince Fahd plan, which is a peace plan." Mzali affirmed that "there can be no peace except with an independent, sovereign Palestinian state." He added that "the situation is very complicated. I cannot ask for the severance of relations with Israel. The Middle East countries could coexist provided the Palestinians were agreeable. But the Palestinians will accept nothing short of having their own state. Hence matters are quite complicated in my opinion."

Asked about what the paper described as the Palestinian excuses for rejecting Prince Fahd's plan, Prime Minister Mzali said "The excuse is that the Palestinians are objectively choked by Israel, the big powers and even their own kinsmen. They have no opportunity to express their views. The Palestinians are being killed daily by Zionist bullets. The Palestinian young men and women have nothing to defend themselves with other than their bodies, thus, what other position could they take?"

Asked if the Arab League could be moved from Tunis back to its original headquarters in Egypt if an Arab-Egyptian reconciliation were to take place, Prime Minister Mzali said that this matter "rests on a decision by an Arab summit conference." He added: "We accepted the transfer of the Arab League by a summit decision; thus an Arab summit must decide what is suitable. If the Arab summit decides the Arab League flag should fly side by side with that of Israel in one place over the bank of the Nile, then so be it." Mzali said, however, that he does not think this is likely at present, adding: "I can even go so far as to say that this matter is not under discussion at present."

ETHIOPIA

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES

EA191222 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Dr (Nasrollah Qalayat), head of the Iranian International Affairs Department, arrived in Addis Ababa this morning to deliver a message from Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, to Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs and minister of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee.

In a statement upon arrival in Addis Ababa, Dr (Qalayat) announced that during his stay here he will hold talks with Foreign Ministry officials on current international issues and issues concerning the Nonaligned Movement.

When Dr (Qalayat) arrived in Addis Ababa at the head of a delegation of officials drawn from the Iranian Foreign Ministry and the country's governmental bodies, he was welcomed by Comrade Tibebu Bekele, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other officials of the ministry and Iranian Embassy staff members in socialist Ethiopia.

On completion of their mission to socialist Ethiopia, the Iranian delegation members will go on similar missions to Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Congo Republic and Angola.

Talks With Foreign Minister

EA301952 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Dr (Nasrollah Qalayat), leader of the Iranian delegation and head of the International Affairs Department of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today delivered a message to Comrade Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister and member of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee, from His Excellency Dr 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati, the Iranian minister.

On the occasion, Dr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis and Dr (Nasrollah Qalayat) exchanged views on relations between the two countries and on major international issues. Present at the discussion was Comrade Tibebu Bekele, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Iranian delegation will leave for Zimbabwe tomorrow after concluding its working visit to socialist Ethiopia.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR

EA201950 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Socialist Ethiopia and the USSR have signed a protocol agreement which would strengthen the existing cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries. Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Comrade Zewde Germu signed the 2-year agreement on behalf of the Ethiopian Government, and Soviet Ambassador to Ethiopia, Comrade Konstantin Miroshnichenko signed on behalf of his government.

The protocol document, signed in the conference room of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, will strengthen cooperation in the exchange of cultural, scientific, educational, health and information affairs of the two countries, the two signatories said.

In his speech at the signing ceremony, Comrade Zewde said signing the agreement proves that the strong relations between the two countries are developing and being continually strengthened, adding that socialist Ethiopia will strive hard to implement the agreement.

For his part, Comrade Ambassador Miroshnichenko said the agreement will further strengthen relations between the two countries, adding that his country views the agreement highly and will see to it that this agreement is implemented.

SERTO ADER WARNS OF DISCONTENT OVER SUPPLIES

NC210824 Paris AFP in English 0754 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 21 May (AFP) -- An Ethiopian national weekly newspaper warned Thursday against mounting" popular discontent" unless "urgent action" was taken to overcome obstacles to the marketing and distribution of essential consumer commodities in the country.

In one of the most candid exposes of domestic problems by a state-owned publication in recent years, SERTO ADER (THE WORKER) said widespread shortages had created a "serious situation" that could even block the government development objectives if allowed to continue.

"It could well prove to be a test of our revolution also," the weekly warned, more than seven years after the country embarked on the path of socialism.

SERTO ADER is the organ of the Commission Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) and as such the most authoritative official publication available here. It was launched in June 1980 when COPWE was set up to pave the way for a legal political party and a return to civilian rule in Ethiopia.

The newspaper lashed out against "selfish" traders in the private sector as being behind the shortages and accused some workers in state and cooperative shops of working in collusion with the businessmen.

Ethiopia is pursuing a mixed economy as it slowly threads its way towards socialism, and individuals are free to invest and operate businesses with a capital of up to 500,000 birr (about 250,000 dollars).

The newspaper did not spare the public either, accusing some of buying essential commodities at low-prices state shops and then selling the goods at a profit to traders.

The weekly, commenting in an editorial, did not specify what items were in short supply, but widespread shortages exist in such products as sugar, edible oil, soap, coffee and even the staple food "teff." These are usually available in small private shops and the huge market place known as the "markato", but are sometimes priced as much as 200 percent above their cost in state-owned shops.

Foreigners are generally not affected by these shortages, as their needs are provided for in special supermarkets run by the state.

The existence of the shortages was first acknowledged by head of state Mengistu Haile Marian in a speech here on May Day.

SERTO ADER also pointed to other flaws which it blamed on "inherited trade practices," weak licensing policies that did not follow carefully-defined criteria, and "vague" regulations that made law-enforcement difficult.

It called for a broader application of fixed retail prices, warning that "unsteady and burdensome" pricing was provoking social restiveness.

The newspaper conceded that Ethiopia's factories or farms were not producing enough to meet escalating consumer demands, but said the present troubles could partly be overcome by the enforcement of control directives already in existence.

The weekly appealed to cooperative shops to eliminate their manpower, storage and financial problems and make operational changes as a matter of urgency.

It also appealed to the public to stop selling their rations to profiteers and to help in the exposure of those doing so.

The tone of the editorial did not suggest that a crackdown against businessmen was imminent, but observers suggested that an appeal to the nation was a first step in that direction.

The public have been known to exert pressure on traders to lower prices. Public outrage at a recent unilateral increase by butchers of the price of meat from five birr (about 2.50 dollars) to six birr per kilo forced them to return to the going rate.

However, no parallel moves were introduced to watch the quality, which fell as a result.

KENYA

PRESIDENT MOI EXPELS OGINGA ODINGA FROM KANU

EA201338 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 20 May 82

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today expelled Oginga Odinga from the ruling party, KANU. President Moi said the Odinga has been engaged in divisive and destructive propaganda against the government and some Cabinet ministers. He said Odinga held press conferences, both in Nairobi and abroad, making malicious charges aimed at distorting and damaging the good reputation of the country.

President Moi, who was addressing a public meeting before officially opening the Lari divisional headquarters in Kiambu District, said the ruling party will soon take very firm and stern action against the prophets of doom who sow seeds of discord and despondency.

President Moi said that it was ironical for Odinga to contemplate forming the Kenya Socialist Party, when he has no followers. He said the Luo people are true to Nyayo [footsteps; reference to late President Kenyatta] followers, except for a few misguided people.

Calling on Kenyans to uphold national unity, President Moi said the propaganda against the vice president and minister for home affairs, Mwai Kibaki, and the minister for constitutional affairs, Charles Njonjo, must stop immediately. He warned that the party and the government will not tolerate any more divisive propaganda.

He said that after his term as chairman of the OAU, he will publicly name leaders engaged in rumormongering.

ODINGA REPLIES TO CRITICS ON PLAN TO FORM PARTY

EA201352 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 20 May 82 p 1

[Andrew Kuria report: "Now Odinga Blasts Critics"]

[Text] Jaramogi Odinga yesterday hit back at those who recently criticised him about his reported plan to form another political party. Referring to such critics as payukaring [gossiping] Cabinet ministers, Mr Odinga said Kenya did not need political sycophancy around leadership.

In a signed statement issued to the press soon after his return from Britain, Mr Odinga, a former vice-president of Kenya, said the country needed leaders who were prepared to tell wananchi [local people] the truth and were genuinely concerned about the plight of the people.

I have been amused by the payukaring ministers, who, despite my statement, still hammer on a subject which is already a closed chapter, he said, referring to a May 15 statement issued by his executive assistant, Mr Oyangi Mbaja, which said Mr Odinga had no intention of forming an opposition party or quitting the Kenya African National Union (KANU).

Mr Odinga said his critics found it easier to attack him than bribery and corruption amidst their ranks. He added: neither did they raise their voices when a minister misused his position to obtain taxpayers money for unworthy purposes.

Mr Mjaba's May 15 statement said Mr Odinga was one of the founders and life-members of KANU and that he would like to see that the ruling party ensured participation by all Kenyans irrespective of their status in society.

A British newspaper last week reported Mr Odinga as saying that he would form an opposition party.

Yesterday, Mr Odinga categorically denied the report, saying: Any member of KANU would not want to form another party because our ruling party, by its Constitution, is socialistic enough. KANU Constitution was based on African socialism.

He gave the full text of his speech in London to local newsmen and said: I invite the payukaring ministers to read the KANU Constitution and its manifesto before opening their mouths. I take it that only a naively capitalistic person needs to deviate from KANU and form another party as its Constitution embraces every aspect of Kenya's life.

He said the only things Kenyans needed now were food, shelter, cheaper bus fares and reasonable wages and not an opposition party. Our people should not condone bribery and open corruption such as we read in the newspapers about highly-placed persons, he added.

He said that, as a Kenyan, he had as much right to point out the shortcomings in our government as any other leader. And as long as I live, I shall not hesitate to point out such shortcomings, regardless of whether one liked it or not, Mr Odinga said.

In his address to the African committee of the parliamentary Labour Party at the House of Commons in London, Mr Odinga said on May 4 that Africa was beset by severe economic and political wars. He made a general criticism of leadership in the continent in his address to Labour Party MP's. He said African leadership stampeded opposition parties' existence through constraint, harassment and detention of opposition leadership.

Ultimately, the opposition parties get banished. Next, they turn around to purging the very parties they claim to lead, in the end denying these parties any meaningful role in the country. Sooner rather than later these one-party systems become no-party systems.

The political party of the 1980's must be the party of the people... of the peasantry, the workers and the proletariat. These social groups must be allowed to organize themselves. The goal of party organization must be to mobilize the masses to strive for the benefits and services that accrue from living in the modern world. These benefits and services will best reach the people through socialism, Mr Odinga said in his speech in London.

BRIEFS

OUTGOING BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER -- Kenya and Bangladesh have reiterated their commitment towards the independence of Namibia and called upon the racist South African regime to withdraw from Namibia, to enable Namibians to get their independence. Spelling out their countries stand in Nairobi yesterday, Kenya's Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Robert Ouko, in a speech read on his behalf by one of his assistant ministers, Mr Kamwithi Munyi, and the outgoing Bangladesh high commissioner in Kenya, Mr Hamidullah, said that Kenya and Bangladesh are opposed to all forms of oppression. The Bangladesh envoy had been in Kenya since August 1978. [Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 May 82 EA]

GHANA

RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL NOT TO BE RESTORED

AB210919 Paris AFP in French 0821 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] Accra, 21 May (AFP) -- The moment is not favorable for the restoration of diplomatic relations between Ghana and Israel, Dr Obed Asamoah, secretary of state for foreign affairs, observed in an interview with the official GHANA NEWS AGENCY on Wednesday.

Among the reasons given by Dr Asamoah are the fact that Israel maintains close political and military relations with South Africa, and illegally occupies Arab territories in violation of the UN Charter and of international law.

"Although the Israelis posses useful technological skills which could be beneficial to Ghana if relations were restored between the two countries, that would not make up for the loss of the economic aid that the Arab world gives to Ghana," the Ghanaian leader remarked.

Observers emphasize that if Ghana were to renew diplomatic relations with Israel, it would lose the considerable economic assistance it currently receives from Saudi Arabia and Libya.

RAWLINGS SAYS 'GHANA HAS LONG WAY TO GO'

AB202029 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has declared that workers can be said to be ready for the revolution only when they are prepared to examine themselves to develop a new perspective for the transformation of the society. Speaking at a durbar of all travel agencies operating at Kotoka International Airport in Accra today, he said workers are those who can either make or unmake the revolution. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said Ghana has a long way to go but, he declared: Ghanaians can make it, will have to make it and shall make it. He said the overall success will not be for Ghanaians alone but for the whole of Africa.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings stressed that Africa's emancipation will ultimately come. He repeated that there is so much wastage in the system. He criticized the Department of Civil Aviation for buying equipment worth $2.7 million only to let it lie idle at the airport. He said there is something basically wrong with the society which makes it accept everything without resistance and these are issues that the PDC's [people's defense committees] should tackle.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings however stressed that a solution to problems in the society does not lie only in eliminating the so-called big men, but also in preventing them from indulging in shady deals. He called on Ghanaians to use their imagination otherwise, he said, they will continue to be used as tools for servicing someone else's glory.

Earlier, a member of the National Economic Review Committee, Dr Abbey, who accompanied the chairman, asked Ghanaians to expose wastages in the system.

IVORY COAST

'NO QUESTION OF RESTORING TIES' WITH ISRAEL

AB201419 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 20 May 82

[Excerpt] After the normalization of relations between Israel and Zaire, the Ivory Coast Government is categorical: There is no question of our restoring diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. This is the categorical denial made by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs on commentaries from the international press, especially the Israeli daily, MA'ARIV, which published in its Monday issue that our country is among the African countries which could follow Zaire's example.

LIBERIA

COMMERCE MINISTER TO LEAD DELEGATION TO USSR

AB202005 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] A 10-man delegation headed by Commerce Minister A. Summer Jones leaves Monrovia tomorrow for a 10-day visit to the Soviet Union. The visit, which is at the invitation of the Soviet Government, is of mutual interest to both Liberia and the Soviet Union. A release from the Foreign Ministry today said the visit comes as a result of the air services agreement signed between the two countries last year. According to the release, other members of the delegation are: Maj Yella Kebba, a member of the PRC [People's Redemption Council]; Maj Bark Mala, adviser to the PRC for political affairs; Dr Abdulai Sarr Vandi, minister of posts and telecommunications; Capt Alfred Fromayan, minister of agriculture; Dr (Wulla Tofoe), deputy minister of justice for legal affairs; Mr Simeon D. Colex, Jr, assistant minister of foreign affairs for European affairs; Mrs Catherine Glovers, assistant minister, special assistant to the minister of commerce; William Waterspring, director of civil aviation and (Sumuo V. Yekeh), senior research analyst, National Investment Commission.

MALI

TRAORE RECEIVES IRAQI MINISTER, INVITATION

AB201747 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] and president of the republic, today at 1300 received Iraqi Minister of Youth Karim Mahmud al-Mulla. The Iraqi minister delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn to President Moussa Traore. The seventh summit conference of nonaligned countries due to be held in Baghdad in September was at the center of the talks. During these talks the head of state asked the Iraqi minister to convey his brotherly and friendly greetings to President Saddam Husayn as well the greetings of the Malian people, their party, the UDPM, and the Malian Government to the people of Iraq, their party and their government.

The talks were held in the presence of the Iraqi ambassador to Mali, His Excellency Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, and the diplomatic advisor of the head of state, Tidjani Cisse.

At the end of the talks His Excellency Karim Mahmud al-Mulla spoke to the press: [Begin recording] I had the honor of conveying a special message from our president, Saddam Husayn, to his excellency the president of Mali. The president of Mali and I discussed the invitation to the president of the Republic of Mali to attend the conference of nonaligned countries which will take place in Baghdad next September and I conveyed the greetings of the president of the Iraqi Republic, Saddam Husayn, to his brother and friend, President Moussa Traore. President Moussa Traore also asked me to convey his greetings to the president of the Iraqi Republic and he assured me he would attend the Baghdad meeting. We are also aware of the pertinent relations between the Iraqi and Malian presidents. We also conveyed the greetings of the Iraqi people to the Malian people as well as their wishes for progress and success for the Malian people. [end recording]

NIGER

MITTERRAND SEES FRENCH ROLE IN SAHARA CONFLICT

AB201005 Paris AFP in French 0755 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Niamey, 20 May (AFP) -- French President Francois Mitterrand's spokesman, Michel Vauzelle, explaining in Niamey the discussions that took place yesterday between the French and Algerian presidents in Algiers, said France is playing a "friendship role" rather than "mediating" in the Western Sahara conflict.

President Francois Mitterrand reaffirmed yesterday in Niamey that France can help find a solution to the Western Sahara conflict, thanks to the "good relations between it and each of the states in the region." The French president reiterated his hope (?to see this conflict yield) to self-determination, thus giving the people of Western Sahara the "means to express this right," the spokesman added.

Touching on the stopover that the head of state will make in Nouakchott, Mauritania, next Tuesday on his return from his visit to Black Africa, Mr Vauzelle explained that France "(?is devoted) to the independence and the integrity of these countries."

On the other hand, he spoke of the "constant and continued bonds" with the king of Morocco, and recalled that a presidential visit to Rabat has been fixed for the end of September or early October.

Touching again on the private meeting between the French and Algerian presidents, the Elysee spokesman emphasized that the meeting offered the opportunity to notice that "the atmosphere of understanding" demonstrated between Paris and Algiers during the previous presidential visit in November still exists.

MITTERRAND SPEAKS ON SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICA

AB201730 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 20 May 82

[Excerpts] This afternoons newscast will mainly be devoted to the visit which French President Francois Mitterrand and his wife are currently paying to our country. On the second day of this visit, Presidents Seyni Kountche and Francois Mitterrand visited the National Museum this morning. On their arrival, the two heads of state were welcomed by the minister for youth, sports and culture, Mamane Oumarou, and the curator of the museum, Albert (Feral).

After the National Museum, Presidents Kountche and Mitterrand had talks which lasted more than 1 hour at the Congress Hall where President Mitterrand met with members of the national commission charged with the setting up of the organization for development. Speeches were made at the Congress Hall. In his speech, President Francois Mitterrand spoke of French-Niger cooperation, French-African cooperation and France's commitments to aid our country:

[Begin Mitterrand recording] Our solidarity with Africa is well known. After long struggles, trying periods and hard sufferings, Africa, which came our victorious over all of these, is now responsible for its own destiny. With all that unites us, and with respect for our different views, we must now organize our dialogue, speak of our fears and our doubts and also of our hopes. In this, French-Niger relations are a good example of the type of relations we want to strengthen and implement on your continent. It is together and only together that we can ensure the triumph of the people fighting against the bonds of colonialism and apartheid. It is the only way we can make their voice heard. France, Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, is committed to fighting on your side for this call to be heard. [applause] We will continue to act in this direction, as we have constantly done for a year now at the United Nations, at big meetings or at meetings of international organizations and as I did in Cancun. I did so in Ottawa and will soon do so in Versailles, and I hope we will continue to do so in this same spirit at the conference of heads of state of Africa and France, with a view to defining the lines of action to follow.

Our solidarity with Africa also assumes a joint effort for security. Africa will find its rightful place only when there is an international community which respects the independence of nations, their particular desires to be what they want to be, and in which external interferences are forbidden. But, wherever we look we notice that the biggest power, as well as others, do not resist the temptation to further their world interests at any cost. Therefore, we must be vigilant and also keep in mind our common concern for national interests, our privileged dialogue and the freedom of our people. You want to keep Africa from becoming a private hunting ground for the rivalries and contradictions of external interests. We too want to avoid this. It is with this in mind that France is taking part in Africa's efforts. I said it just yesterday: A French presence, yes; interference, no. [applause] Thus, in the conflicts prevailing on your continent, France, like you, will search for ways to achieve a dialogue and a return to peace. It is clear that France will not only keep to its promises, as it has made them to ensure the security of our friends, it will also ensure that this security is further strengthened if it becomes necessary. France will not do anything that the African people do not want. It is their duty, first of all, to assume their responsibility.

Finally our solidarity is being strengthened daily through development cooperation. This is an essential dimension of our policy, because France is resolutely opposed to selfishness. It wants other nations of the world to share this point of view. It is the only way to ensure that North-South relations are better balanced -- it is the least one can say -- and that weaker nations are not downtrodden. It is the only way to ensure the future of everybody -- strong or weak. They should not be eternally weak. The prosperity of the strong and of the weak nations depends on this North-South solidarity.

We have learned of the withdrawal of some countries, like the United States, in its help through the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the reductions in aid that were decided on by most of these countries. Only a few countries -- the Scandinavian countries, France and somehow Great Britain -- have maintained their committments. Despite the withdrawal of the others, they have voted the same amounts for development. [applause] We have already taken the initiative and our minister of cooperation and development as well as our minister of economy and finance have each taken theirs. We have set up a plan called "Aid Plan II" which will enable the disbursement of these amounts in a coherent manner, since they have been reduced following the decision of some countries to withdraw completely. Ladies and gentlemen. I would like to repeat this: France, which I was elected to head 1 year ago, will do everything -- I hope you have no doubt about it -- to implement these principles by word and by deed. I will respect my country's committments. They were extensively examined. They were not made haphazardly. I guarantee they will be implemented. [applause]

This will be done without pleasing anybody. What I mean is that we shall not make further promises or commit ourselves without prior discussion with our partners, letting them know our own limits as we are also passing through the international crisis you too are experiencing. But beyond an increase in the volume of its aid, France wants to change the logic of its action. It will therefore work towards a true codevelopment and a self-reliant growth. This statement, which may not be clear to someone who is not well-informed, will not be a surprise to those listening to me. These words come from your own continent. The solutions to the difficulties in Africa, and particularly Black Africa, cannot be found in simply copying the system of the industrialized countries. The solutions lie in an industrial-agricultural development aimed at satisfying the essential needs of the people and based on the exploitation and the development of the natural resources of those countries. This is an evident truth when we consider all the experiences and failures recorded by so many Black African countries and the continent in general over the past 20 years. Niger understands this. Earlier I stressed the courage of the authorities. Thus, your country's concerns are similar to those of France, which will cooperate with you on this basis, in this spirit, without however deciding for you. We will thereby respect the desire expressed by Africans in Lagos in June 1980 and which places emphasis on -- and I repeat -- self-reliant development. They called for internal mobilization of resources. [end recording]

NIGERIA

SHAGARI COMMENDED FOR GRANTING PARDON TO OJUKWU

Gowon: 'Absolutely Correct'

AB201046 Lagos NAN in English 1037 GMT 20 May 82

[By Wada Maida]

[Text] London, 20 May (NAN) -- Former head of state Yakubu Gowon said in London yesterday that the pardon granted to Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu by President Shehu Shagari had completed the reconciliation moves started by the Federal Government in 1970.

Speaking to a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) Mr Gowon said the Federal Government was "absolutely correct" in taking the decision. He added, however, that the pardon should not be for a political advantage because doing so would then "make it wrong."

Asked whether he thought of taking a similar action when he was in power, Mr Gowon told NAN that the feeling of Nigerians at that time would not have made it possible. He said that his administration encouraged all those who were advisers to Mr Ojukwu to return home, and allowed Mr Ojukwu himself to live in exile in peace.

The Nigerian Government then only asked the Government of Ivory Coast not to allow Mr Ojukwu to use its territory as a base for subversion against Nigeria, he added.

Mr Gowon said that with the latest gesture by the Federal Government, it was not the responsibility of Mr Ojukwu to ensure that whatever activities he might decide to undertake do not undermine the peace and stability of Nigeria.

Press Reaction

AB201038 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 82

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The amnesty granted to Ojukwu by President Shehu Shagari is discussed by three papers -- THE NIGERIA OBSERVER, THE NIGERIAN STATESMAN and THE DAILY SKETCH.

THE NIGERIA OBSERVER congratulates the president and members of the Council of State for taking such an action. The paper expresses happiness over his pardon and says it will surely gladden the hearts of many Nigerians who have been waiting impatiently for the return of this illustrous son of Africa. The observer wishes Mr Ojukwu a happy time and also appeals to him to forget the sad memories of the past and join hands with his compatriots in the arduous task of nation building.

THE STATESMAN describes the pardon as most significant because it represents above all considerations one of the most notable success of post-civil war policies in Nigeria. However, the paper says the amnesty granted to Ojukwu will be meaningless if his subordinates who acted under his umbrella are still languishing in jail. THE STATESMAN also appeals to the Federal Government to restore the confiscated belongings of Ojukwu's family to them.

In its view THE SKETCH notes that the size of public opinion in Ojukwu's favor has all along been so tremendously overwhelming that no government could have any excuse to resist it. The paper hopes that all decent Nigerians will allow Ojukwu to peacefully regain his place as a worthy son of Nigeria.

However, THE OBSERVER, THE STATESMAN and THE SKETCH warn against involving him in politics.

Anambra State House Assembly

AB201020 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has been commended for granting amnesty to Emeka Ojukwu. A team of Voice of Nigeria correspondents confirmed that all those interviewed commended the magnanimity and wise decision of the president and the national Council of State to grant the clemency.

In a speech at the Anambra State House of Assembly in Enugu, the speaker, Chief Ifeanyi Chukwu Enemchukwu, explained that the pardon will assume that Ojukwu join his fellow men in the task of building a virile nation. He said that the occasion called for the closing of ranks and greater understanding in the interest of the unity of the country. The house also adopted a motion congratulating Governor Jim Nwobodo and Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe for their contribution toward effecting the clemency.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA SUPPORTED

AB201239 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 20 May 82

[Dayo Adeyeye commentary]

[Text] At its last meeting in Dar es Salaam, the foreign ministers of the frontline states endorsed the call by SWAPO for the convening of an international conference immediately to negotiate the outstanding issues which have blocked the early achievement of Namibia's independence. The ministers resolved that the negotiations should be held on the format of the 1981 Geneva conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The decisions of the ministers to call for an international conference at this time is timely and welcome, in view of the lack of progress made by the five nation Western contact group for Namibia's independence. The talks had been stalled as a result of certain proposals made by the contact group which SWAPO and the frontline states consider unacceptable.

No doubt, last year's UN-sponsored Geneva conference for Namibia's transition to independence offered the first real hope for a peaceful resolution of the independence of Namibia. But the conference was effectively sabotaged by South Africa, apparently with the connivance and encouragement of its Western friends who incidentally make up the contact group.

The Western contact group then began to talk about the idea of (?modernizing) the UN plans which commenced with a series of proposals. At first they proposed two sets of independence proposals calling for a single member assembly of proportional representation or both. [sentence as heard] And then the five nations -- the United States, Britain, the FRG, France and Canada -- came out clearly in favor of a system that had a combination of the two, a proposal that is tantamount to giving recognition to the Namibian puppet party. This SWAPO found unacceptable and rightly rejected it.

Other areas of disagreement concern the Western contact group's proposals for minority rights, a change in the election timetable and on the composition of the UN peacekeeping force intended for the country. No doubt these proposals were made to delay and frustrate the smooth transition to genuine and meaningful independence for the people in Namibia. It is on the basis of this that the frontline states have rightly endorsed SWAPO's rejection of the proposals. Since then, the Western mediation seems to have collapsed as no concrete attempts have been made to renew the talks, thereby giving South Africa ample time and opportunity to consolidate its position in the territory and to continue its military and economic intimidation of the frontline states.

It is for this reason that we welcome SWAPO's call for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to thrash out the outstanding issues which have so far blocked the early achievement of Namibia's aspirations for independence. The international conference would help to break the present stalemate created by the reluctance of the Western contact group to continue talks on Namibia's independence issue. Whenever the conference is convened, it should work on the basis of the UN plan for Namibia's transition to independence which legally represents the best basis for a peaceful resolution of the independence problem. The United Nations should without delay convene the conference.

It is the duty of all peace-loving countries to cooperate and ensure the success of the conference whenever it is convened. A practical and effective way of doing this will be for the international community to put pressure on the racists and their collaborators to bow to the will of the international community. There is no better alterantive to diplomatic and peaceful resolution of the conflict, which the international conference is all about.

ANGOLA

SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES BOMB CAHAMA, OTHER TOWNS

AB201440 Luanda ANGOP in French 1405 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Cahama, 20 May (ANGOP) -- It was disclosed in today's edition of the JORNAL DE ANGOLA that the South African Air Force has once more bombed the town of Cahama in Cunene Province as well as the Jamba, Mulondo and Kuvango Districts, nearly 300 km from the Namibian border.

The JORNAL DE ANGOLA noted that in the Mulondo District the bombs burned the ground for more than 48 hours and that the South African Air Force used napalm again, as was the case at the beginning of the aggression in August 1981.

The targets of the racist attacks continue to be economic centers in Huila and Cunene Provinces, the Angolan paper stressed. It also published a photograph of a man mortally wounded by the racist air force.

Until now, the Angolan paper said, the South Africans have dropped nearly 3,000 bombs on Cahama causing a large number of casualties, 95 percent of which are among the civilian population.

After noting that the town of Cahama continues to be defended by the FAPLA, the JOURNAL DE ANGOLA published the testimony of an Angolan officer, according to which the racist air force drops bombs and launches rockets from altitudes of 1,800 or 1,500 meters as it is afraid of being hit by Angolan antiaircraft fire. The FAPLA officer added that they even manage to use one or two Mirages and an Impala MK-2 against an emplacement of only two soldiers and he explained that the South African Air Force rarely hits the military positions of the Angolan forces.

It will be recalled that last Sunday the Angolan Ministry of Defense condemned the increase in reconnaissance flights by the South African Air Force as well as the bombing of the Cassinga iron mines and FAPLA positions in Cahama.

USSR OFFICIAL ARRIVES; TO EXAMINE NAVAL COMPLEX

AB201230 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] The Soviet deputy minister for fish industry, Yuriy Bystrov, arrived in Luanda yesterday for an 8-day visit to Angola. During his visit, the Soviet official will discuss with Angolan leaders matters concerning bilateral cooperation and review with his Angolan counterpart progress made on the restoration of the naval complex [name of complex not given] This complex is designed to give technical assistance to Angolan and Soviet ships which operate in Angolan territorial waters, and also to train nationals in naval repair and maintenance.

COMOROS

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SENTENCED TO JAIL

AB191543 Paris AFP in English 1536 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Moroni, 19 May (AFP) -- Former Comoran Foreign Minister Mouzaoir Abdallah was sentenced by the state security court here today to two years' imprisonment, of which one was suspended.

Mr Mouzaoir, who served under the previous President Ali Solihi, toppled in a coup three years ago, had pleaded not guilty to working against public security and fomenting "serious political trouble and hatred of the government."

Mr Mouzaoir fled the country in June 1981 aboard a light aircraft and was arrested on his return last November.

He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS at that time that during his exile he had tried to set up an opposition front to the current regime of President Ahmed Abdallah among the sizeable Comoran communities in Madagascar, Tanzania and the Seychelles, but had not been entirely successful.

MOZAMBIQUE

SABOTEURS DAMAGE ZIMBABWE-MOZAMBIQUE PIPELINE

LD210838 Johannesburg International Service in English 0300 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] Saboteurs believed to be members of the Mozambique national resistance have blown up a 2-meter section of the oil pipiline linking Zimbabwe with the Indian Ocean. Reports reaching Lisbon say a section of the line in the Mozambique village of Vila Machado, between Chimoio and the border town of Manioa, was sabotaged. Repairs on earlier attacks, [as heard] that put the pipeline out of service last year, were completed in November.

NAMIBIA

CLERGYMEN REPORT ATROCITIES BY RSA SOLDIERS

AB192040 Lagos NAN in English 1730 GMT 19 May 82

[Feature article entitled: "South African Occupation of Namibia" by Adewale Fatona, NAN corespondent in Harare]

[Excerpts] [no dateline given] South African soldiers in Namibia were breaking into homes, beating residents, shooting civilians, raping women, stealing and killing cattle and often pillaging stores, while claiming to be searching for South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) freedom fighters. This was contained in a report by a delegation of six church leaders headed by the president of the South African Bishops Conference, Archbishop Dennis Hurley, who visited the disputed territory recently.

When the tracks of SWAPO guerillas are discovered by the security forces, the local people are in danger. Harsh measures are intensified, people are blindfolded, taken from their homes, and left beaten and even dead by the roadside, says the report. Women were often raped. It was not unusual for a detachment to break into homes and while Black soldiers kept watch over the family, white soldiers selected the best looking girls, took them into the field and raped them.

There is no redress, because reporting irregularities or atrocities to commanders is considered a dangerous and fruitless exercise. In the circumstances, intimidation of the civilian population is to be expected, says the report.

Apparently, there was no other way for the occupation forces to extract information from the people who supported and sympathised with SWAPO and were afraid of reprisals. For the report says, it was not the policy of SWAPO to intimidate, because it is a guerrilla movement dependent on the goodwill of the people.

Occupation forces, however, paraded the corpses of SWAPO guerrillas by driving around with the bodies dangling from army vehicles. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was also imposed in the operational area and anyone moving about after dark and shot, a person could not go to the help of a sick neighbor or a women in child birth, and a priest risked his life going on a sick call, says the report.

The delegation heard the personal experiences of people who had been brutalised.

The churchmen condemned the acts of terror saying: "These forces are generally looked upon throughout Namibia as an army of occupation." In their report they stressed that Namibians support SWAPO, and are convinced that the national liberation movement is poised for victory if free and fair election are held.

Meanwhile, the biggest propaganda weapon used by South Africa against SWAPO is the accusation that it is a Marxist movement. The delegation constantly asked people what they thought about this.

We were told time and again that SWAPO is essentially a national liberation movement, that when it first opted for armed struggle, it turned to Western nations for arms, and only because supplies were refused by the West did it turn to the Warsaw Pact countries."

Nonetheless, the churchmen concluded that whatever the Marxist tendencies of SWAPO, it seemed to be a movement with powerful, popular support, inspiring little apprehension in the majority of Christians in Namibia; and was looked upon with certainty to win elections, but under United Nations supervision.

"But it is also strongly held that the West could become the predominant outside influence on an independent Namibia if it adopted a friendly and helpful attitude", said the report.

Archbishop Hurley has this to say: "Aspects of the Namibian situation that we have presented, though known in certain church circles, are different from what is usually published in South Africa, that they are bound to come as a shock to many".

He explained that accounts of atrocities perpetrated by members of the occupation forces would prove disturbing to white South Africans, who are accustomed to reports of atrocities committed by SWAPO.

Archbishop Hurley's group also interviewed 180 Namibians representing a cross-section of political parties, and held discussions with the South African-appointed administrator-general of the territory, Major-General Charles Lloyd.

The group concluded its report with an appeal for understanding for a "creative, human and Christian effort" on the part of South Africa to conclude a just and peaceful settlement.

"We make this statement in the hope that it will touch the conscience of many in South Africa, especially those who share our belief in Christ and have some say in the conduct of peace negotiations and bringing them to a happy conclusion", the churchmen urged.

Copies of the 35-page document have been sent to South Africa's prime minister, Mr P. W. Botha, and representatives of the five Western contact countries who are involved in the protracted negotiations for Namibian independence.

Among some of the suggestions the churchmen made were the rapid achievement of a cease-fire and an end to killing and suffering.

Others were the withdrawal of South Africa from its situation of violence, and the establishment of peace and reconciliation so that Namibia could achieve independence and take its rightful place among the free nations of the world.